

First Presbyterian Church

8 PM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE



"How God Shows Up" by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



First Presbyterian
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL
CONNECT
CARD



IVEY RINGERS HANDBELL CONCERT

Silent Night | arr. Trevor Cook
 Joy to the World | arr. Trevor Cook
 On This Day Earth Shall Ring | Fred Gramann
 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming | arr. Cathy Moglebust
 Go Tell It on the Mountain | arr. Hart Morris
 God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen | arr. Kevin McChesney
 Away in a Manger | arr. Trevor Cook

PREPARATION

Prelude | Variations on *Adeste Fideles* | Marcel Dupré

Chiming of the Trinity

ADORATION

Lighting of the Advent Candle | Valerie Tutt and Mark Bowling

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies as we gather in adoration of the Christ-child.

Tonight, on this holy night, we give thanks for every child among us.

We are grateful that the Word became flesh in the form of baby Jesus, and we celebrate the preciousness of life that reminds us of the promises of God.

For now we know: He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the newborn King.

+ **Processional Hymn No. 133** | "O Come, All Ye Faithful" | ADESTE FIDELES

CONFESSION

Opening Prayer | Anna Dickson

We wait impatiently, as only the stars can muster a hush as they bend toward the coming light. Help us hold our collective breath with the angelic host as they clutch their restless alleluias.

For God is on the way: the Word waiting, the light breaking forth, and the promise shining through.

Ready us, we pray. Amen.

Anthem | "On Christmas Night" (Sussex Carol) | arr. Philip Ledger

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful king's birth. Then why should all on earth be so sad since our redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty? When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place; angels and all with joy may sing all for to see the king. All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: Glory to God and peace to all, now and forever more. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture** | Luke 2:1-20 | pew Bible pg. 58+**Hymn No. 113** | “Angels We Have Heard on High” | GLORIA**Anthem** | “Now Behold the Lamb” | Kirk Franklin | FUPC Praise Team**Scripture** | John 1:1-5 | pew Bible pg. 91**Meditation** | Pen Peery+**Hymn No. 121** | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” | ST. LOUIS**RESPONSE**

+**Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer** | Lorenzo Small, Sr.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Christmas Offering | Robert Galloway**Offertory Anthem** | “Still, Still, Still” | arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping. Holy Star, its vigil keeping. Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Saviour’s birth. The night is peaceful all around you. Close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, ‘tis the eve of our Saviour’s birth Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber, dream, dream, dream o the joyous day to come.

Sharing the Light of Christ**SENDING FORTH**

+**Carol** | “Silent Night, Holy Night” | STILLE NACHT

During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, ‘round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

+**Benediction**

As the lights come on, please extinguish your candle and exit the sanctuary in peace.

GIVE
ONLINETEXT
TO GIVEPRAYER
REQUESTS

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

The liturgy for the Advent wreath is written by the Rev. Caroline Jinkins and used with permission.

The Christmas Eve offering will be collected for Roof Above. Their mission is to serve as the catalyst for systemic change to end homelessness in our community.

If you would like to donate sanctuary flowers for baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, memorials, birthdays, honoraria etc., please contact Diane Maye (dianemaye@hotmail.com or 704-492-0490).

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend
Pendleton B. Peery**
Senior Pastor

**The Reverend
Anna R. Dickson**
*Associate Pastor for
Congregational Care*

**The Reverend
Robert L. Galloway**
*Associate Pastor for
Christian Formation and
Young Adults*

**The Reverend
Lorenzo Small, Sr.**
*Senior Pastor
First United
Presbyterian Church*

William P. Young, III
*Director of
Music Ministries*



ABOUT THE COVER ART | ARTIST'S STATEMENT

"How God Shows Up"

Inspired by Luke 2:1-20 | Silk painting with digital drawing and collage

"...my imagination leads me to wonder about how Mary experienced both grief and joy. Apart from Elizabeth, did she have support throughout her pregnancy? Was her own mother involved? Did she have generational trauma she needed to grieve? Did the stress of their travels to Bethlehem cause her labor to happen sooner than expected? As she labored, did a midwife come? Was she afraid?

In this image, as if looking past a curtain, we peer into this threshold moment when excruciating pain gives way to ecstatic joy as Mary draws her baby to her chest and he takes his first breath. As Mary holds her baby, additional hands reach in to support them both. Maybe these are the hands of strangers, of Joseph, or of a midwife who was summoned. Perhaps they are simply the hands of angels.

Each year, we tell this story because it is raw with joy, pain, and the complexities of being human. No matter how your story is unfolding, may you find that this sacred story holds space for you. For this is how God shows up—in a child who cries, in hands that hold, in human flesh, in life and in death."

—Lisle Gwynn Garrity

CHURCHWIDE

Poinsettias may be taken after the Christmas Day service.

Do you need support during the holidays?

Our Stephen Ministers are trained to listen compassionately without judgment. | Request a Stephen Minister: adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org

Pastor on call – If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

ADULTS

What do we believe? Passages Class, January 8-29, 9:45 a.m., S203 and Zoom - The Presbyterian Church's creeds and confessions. | More info: fpc.tiny.us/passagessundayclass

YOUTH

Montreat Worship and Music Conference

Registration, begins January 1 - Open to grades three-12, with early-bird pricing until January 31. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org

Montreat Youth Conference Registration, begins January 8 - Open to all youth in grades eight-12.

Epiphany PYC, January 8, 6 p.m., Wood Fellowship Hall - PYC will resume on January 8 as we engage in an Epiphany-themed program and receive Star Words.

Youth Council Meeting, January 8, 5 p.m., Youth Corner - Middle and high school youth councils will meet before PYC that evening.



VIEW THE CHURCH
CALENDAR

CHILDREN

Registration for Montreat Worship and Music

Conference, begins January 1 - Open to grades three-12, with early-bird pricing until January 31. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org

Children's Choirs and Handbells, resumes January 11, 6 p.m. - Rehearsals for TK-5th grade begins at 6 p.m. with dinner available to purchase beginning at 5:15. | Contact: coverbey@firstpres-charlotte.org | Register: fpc.tiny.us/choir22

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

Room In The Inn, Monday nights, FPC –

Your help is needed to provide hospitality to eight unsheltered neighbors every Monday night starting December 5. | Contact: fbryan@firstpres-charlotte.org

Faith in Housing, January 22, 12 p.m., WFH - Learn how the local faith community is addressing the affordable housing crisis and hear from DreamKey Partners, Give Impact, Ascent Housing, and the Presbytery on creative solutions happening in Charlotte. | Register: fpc.tiny.us/3sw5u2de

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

CHURCH CLOSED
Room in the Inn, 5 p.m., FBDR

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

CHURCH CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Church building closed - All staff working remotely

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Worship, 11 a.m., Sanctuary



New! Contemplative Service

Sundays beginning January 8 | 9-9:40 a.m. | Chapel

The contemplative service at First Presbyterian Church creates time and space to experience God in different ways. This service follows a similar order of worship as our 11 a.m. service but is more intimate and experiential. The service will be unique each week. It may incorporate elements of silence, reflective prayer, music, and/or meditation. Communion will be served each week. We invite you to try this new service and find a space of calm and centering in your busy life.

More information is available in the Welcome Center.
| Questions: mbowman@firstpres-charlotte.org

Sun Counseling and Wellness at First Presbyterian Church

Sun Counseling and Wellness therapists, Andrea Juarez and Sheba Surratt, are onsite in the Fresco Lobby counseling offices during business hours Monday-Friday, and in early evenings Monday-Thursday. If you are considering seeking counseling support in the new year, visit firstpres-charlotte.org/counseling-center. You can read more about their respective areas of expertise and methodology linked under their images on the webpage. The counseling center's dedicated entrance provides confidential access to the FPC building, and is convenient to those who work and/or live uptown. Scholarships are available.



[FIRSTPRES-CHARLOTTE.ORG/
COUNSELING-CENTER](https://firstpres-charlotte.org/counseling-center)



SUN COUNSELING
& WELLNESS



DR. SHEBA SURRATT,
DBH, LCMHC



ANDREA JUAREZ,
LCSWA

First Presbyterian Church
200 W Trade Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
704.332.5123
firstpres-charlotte.org

CONNECT WITH US!



@firstprescharlotte

Subscribe to our newsletter
at fpc.tiny.us/news