

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 17, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Handbells: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

INTROIT 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (vrs. 1&2) ES IST EIN' ROS'

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Heikkinen Family

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Isa. 61:1-3; John 1:7; 1 Thess. 5:16-17, 21*

One: The Promised One of God brings good news to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.

All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

One: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty to captives and release to prisoners.

All: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

One: The Promised One of God comforts all who mourn and gives a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

All: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, holding fast to what is good, we are witnesses to the light of Christ!

***HYMN 119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

CALL TO CONFESSION

from Ps. 126:1, 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

from 1 Thess. 5:19-20, 22;

Merciful God, you love justice;

Isa. 61:8, 11; John 3:19

why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil?

You have given us the gift of your Spirit;

why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?

You have given us the words of the prophets

and the Word himself;

why, then, do we despise and ignore

what we have heard from you?

You have sent the light into the world;

why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light?

Forgive us. Restore us.

Till and tend us as your garden

until righteousness and praise spring up,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Ps. 126:3, 6

One: In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!

Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy.

All: Thanks be to God: we are forgiven!

**for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

*PASSING THE PEACE

We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

*RESPONSE 581

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

LUKE 1:26-38

(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM

Special Music

SISTER MAXINE FRANKLIN

SECOND READING

JOHN 1:1-5

SERMON

"Courage to be unconventional" Rev. Norman Franklin

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE

COUNTY DOWN

APOSTLES' CREED

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand

of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;

the holy catholic church;

the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

See prayer concerns list, back page

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

page 35 in hymnal

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM

*At this time of year,
the abundance of some and the needs of so many
stand in marked contrast.
As we bring now our tithes and offerings,
may Christ's heart rejoice
and the needs of others be tended.*

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

from 1 Thess. 5:18; 1 Thess. 5:23b

God Sends Us Forth

*HYMN 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH

DIR GEBEN

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*BLESSING

HYMN 137

He Came Down (vrs 1)

HE CAME DOWN

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself!

You can scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out our online form.

We would love to get to know you better!



This Week

TODAY! @ 4:00pm - Interracial Dialogue

Mon., Dec. 18 @ 11:00am - PW Bible Study @ the Salmon's

Dec. 21 - Jan. 1 - Church Office Closed

(for timely matters, call 606-875-3474)

Wed., Dec. 20 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice

Thur., Dec. 21 @ 4:00pm - Deacon Meeting

Thur., Dec. 21 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Mary Jones

Ushers.....Jo & Jimmy Salmon

Audio.....Josh Jones

Video.....Jon Burlew

Coffee Plus.....Laura Wright

First Reading—Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Second Reading—John 1:1-5

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Pat Carpenter's son, Josh White; Angie Butler; Barbie Cooper; Rogelio Castillo; Don Haney; Autumn Brock's mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Glenda Wilson; Pat Carpenter; Bill House; Ed & Joyce Mick; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec'd month of Nov.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$10,699	\$13,934	\$140,176	\$153,271
Non-Pledged	\$4,938	\$3,154	\$48,227	\$34,698

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Laura Kamperman
Next Week.....Marci Randall

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Marshall Judy & Kim King
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Marci Randall
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Rev. Norman Franklin

Deacons:

Paula Burlew	Eileen Stockham	Carol Prater
Cindy Fountain	Mary Beth Waller	Sue Guffey
Marshall Judy	Marci Randall	

Elders:

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
Forrest Brock	Charles Leveridge	
Kimberly King	Zack Vaught	Sharon Mandt
Chris Phillips	John Wright	Perry Waller

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First Presbyterian Church

December 17th, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent



Plummer, Lauren. Advent Candle, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57132> [retrieved December 14, 2023]. Original source: Lauren Plummer, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauren-plummer-mts-ma-006738129/>.

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ's peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.