



## First Presbyterian Church

1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road  
(434) 384-6231 • [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org) • e-mail: [info@fpcly.org](mailto:info@fpcly.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>  
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 10:30 a.m.  
LIVE Video Streaming on [www.fpcly.org](http://www.fpcly.org) at 10:30 a.m.

# Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**

*Chancel Ringers*

Welcome and Announcements

**Hymn: Joy to the World!**

Antioch

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

**Prayer of the Day and the Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High**

Gloria

*Glo- - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo- - - ria in excelsis De-o.*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Lesson:**

Psalm 126

**New Testament Lesson:**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**"Reaching with Joy"**

Peter Thompson

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn: Song of Mary**

Morning Song

My soul gives glory to my God, my heart pours out its praise.  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is this name.  
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,  
dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

**Prayers of the People**

**Call to Offering**

## Offertory Anthem

### Light of the World *Whitney and Robert O'Brian*

Daigle/Duncan/Mabury

*The world waits for a miracle The heart longs for a little bit of hope  
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel  
A child prays for peace on Earth And she's calling out from a sea of hurt  
Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel  
And can you hear the angels singing Glory to the light of the world Glory, the light of the world is here  
The drought breaks with the tears of a mother  
A baby's cry is the sound of love Come down, come down, Emmanuel  
He is the song for the suffering He is Messiah, the Prince of Peace has come  
He has come, Emmanuel  
Glory to the light of the world For all who wait For all who hunger For all who've prayed For all who wonder  
Behold your King Behold Messiah  
Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

## Prayer of Dedication

### WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

#### Hymn: God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God Be with You

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

## Benediction

## Postlude

### People Look East!

K. Langlois

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### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Hunter Cleland, Dan Grabeel, Jackie Hill, Rick Milam, Stannard Preston, Ken Slusher, Dickie Stowers, Bob Thomas, and Michael Trexler who were elected last Sunday at a congregational meeting to serve First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg as Ruling Elders in the Class of 2023. We thank God for your call to serve and look forward to your service.

**THAT'S AWESOME!!! Worship Live on [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org).** Our new Live Video Streaming equipment has been installed for the Sanctuary and we are excited to welcome you to worship through this new outreach tool. Instead of tuning in and waiting for the right moment to connect on Facebook, you can now go to the home page of our website, [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org), and access the "Worship Now" video link from there. It will lead you to a live streaming broadcast of worship through youtube.com. The video will remain available on the website for viewing or reviewing at an alternative time and be posted to Facebook.

**Offices and Facility:** The church offices are open M-F from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **by appointment and reservation only.** Please call the church office to schedule. Self-screening, temperature checks, face masks, and hand washing are required for entry for everyone.

**Advent and Christmas at FPCLY:** Join us each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for outdoor worship or 10:30 a.m. Live on WLNI and [www.fpclly.org](http://www.fpclly.org). A special Service of Lessons and Carols will be next Sunday, December 20 led by members of our Chancel Choir and other musicians. We will be hosting Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Worship on Thursday, December 24 at both 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the front lawn. Bring a blanket and join us in singing carols, breaking bread, sharing the cup, and sharing the light of Christ. Wish to stay in your car? No problem. Come to the parking lot and tune to 92.7 FM and you can hear everything from the warmth and comfort of your car.

**Reopening update from Session:** Your FPCLY Staff and Session continues to review the possibility of reopening the sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings as well as the rest of the facilities without appointment or reservation throughout the week. As of Tuesday, November 17, the FPCLY Staff and Session acknowledges that nothing new has developed with the status of the virus to cause us to change our current protocols. We will continue to put safety first and stay the course as we have been following. The Staff and Session still feel strongly that to reopen the sanctuary at the level desired for effective worship, there needs to be better control of the virus with a stop of rapid spreading and much lower risk of transmission throughout Virginia for at least a two week period, an effective vaccine administered and distributed, or more effective ways to implement reopening within direct compliance of CDC guidelines. We are committed to continuing to review and assess progress of the pandemic and will be flexible to the possibility of opening as soon as possible.

**Pastoral Care and Prayers:** If you have an emergency and need to talk with Peter, please call him directly. Members Helping Members are also available by phone.

**Pastor on Call:**

Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

**Members Helping Members for December (phone only):**

Elinor Ann Clark (434) 386-3889 and Gail Kowalski (434) 384-6058

**“Rooted and Reaching” Capital Project Campaign-** Rooted in a rich history and rooted in our devotion to God, we are reaching for the future and all God offers us and all we might offer others. God is doing great things in the life and ministries of First Presbyterian Church and 2020 is going to be a pivotal year in the history of the church. With opportunities to increase our benevolence support and efforts, improve ministry support, replace the steeple, renovate the organ, repair a variety of other facility needs, and enhance endowment sustainability, we pray you will be praying for First Presbyterian and how you can participate in this campaign initiative. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Pumphrey ([Kathryn.pumphrey@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.pumphrey@gmail.com)) or Bobby O’Brian ([redimixer@lrmcc.com](mailto:redimixer@lrmcc.com)).

**“Rooted and Reaching” Campaign Status: We have now raised over \$2.5 Million in pledges to date.**

Thank you to the over 170 of you who have already pledged. We very much appreciate your participation and leadership at FPCLY in this way. If you have not yet pledged, **WE STILL WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION!** Our goal is to contact each family of First Presbyterian Church in the next few weeks, so when you are contacted by a fellow member to schedule a personal visit regarding the “Rooted and Reaching” Capital Projects Campaign, we would be honored if you said “Yes” to the visit. If you would like to schedule your visit with a volunteer visitor sooner rather than later call the church office at 434.384.6231 to schedule.

**Annual Stewardship Campaign Status:** We have now received 176 pledges totaling more than \$580,000 for our 2021 Operating Budget. This is approximately 1/2 the total number of pledges and 2/3 the \$ needed to effectively do all God is calling us to do. Thank you to all who have turned in their pledge and we look forward to continuing our coming together in this way. Since packets and pledge cards are accompanied by a visit concurrent with the Capital Projects Campaign, the process is taking a little longer to complete this year. If you have not yet been visited or called, please remain patient. We want to include everyone as best we can. If you would like to initiate a date and time for a visit, we invite you to call the church office at 434-384-6231) or email at [office@fpcly.org](mailto:office@fpcly.org).