



A Service of Lessons and Carols

First Presbyterian Church of Lynchburg
1215 Virginia Episcopal School Road
(434) 384-6231 • www.fpclly.org • e-mail: info@fpclly.org
<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 10:30 a.m.
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 10:30 a.m.

Forth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2020

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude

Alma Redemptoris Mater

Palestrina/Magatagan

Christi Solomon, Violin; Emma Short, Violin; Amy Corbet, Viola; Elise Solomon, Cello

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day and the Lord's Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Chancel Choir

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.*

(Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)*

The Preparation: Isaiah 40:3-5

Anthem

Prepare the Way

Chancel Choir

*Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story, O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.*

*Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace. And tidings of salvation Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.*

The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-33

Anthem

The Angel Gabriel

Chancel Choir

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.
"All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
"How blest among all women you shall be, Whom ev'ry age will praise continually.
Your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!
Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady. Gloria!
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

The Nativity: Luke 2:1-7

Anthem

Silent Night
KidMin Virtual Choir

*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*

Liturgical Symbolism & Significance

Kathleen Lifsey

The Angels: Luke 2:8-14

Anthem

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Chancel Choir

*Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

The Shepherds: Luke 2:15-20

Anthem

What Child is This
Solo- Althea O'Brian

*What child is this Who lay to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping*

*(Refrain) This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading (refrain)*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him (refrain)*

The Magi: Matthew 2:1-11

Anthem

We Three Kings of Orient Are
String Quartet

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

**Call to Offering
Offertory Anthem**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Chancel Choir

*O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,*

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "Antioch"

C. Phillips

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

THAT'S AWESOME!!! Worship Live on 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, 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 will be closed for the Celebration of Christmas on December 24, 25, and 28.

Advent and Christmas at FPCLY: Join us this Thursday, December 24th for our Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Communion and Candlelight at both 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the front lawn. 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.

Year End Reminders from the Business Office

- **Electronic Contributions:** Contribution information for gifts by credit card or draft of your checking account need to be given to Lori Wright by **December 21** for credit to the 2020 Tax Year.
- Make your **stock gift transfers right away**. This will allow time for the gifts to be transferred to our accounts and for proceeds to be received by year end.
- **2020 Contributions Deadline:**
Contributions *received in the office by close of business December 31* or **postmarked by December 31** will be posted to contribution statements for the 2020 tax year.
- **Expense Reimbursements:**
Please submit any requests for reimbursement of 2020 budget year expenses by December 28. Any checks written after December 31 will be charged to the 2021 budget.
- **Pledges**
Please contact Lori Wright if:
You have not completed your **2020 pledge** and have any questions about the balance outstanding.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Lori Wright in the Business Office.
434-384-6231 or lori@fpcly.org

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) or Bobby O’Brian (redimixer@lrmcc.com).

“Rooted and Reaching” Campaign Status: We have now raised over \$2.54 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 \$589,000 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.