



Advent 2022

EXPERIENCING A
SACRED
CHRISTMAS



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN**
celebrating & inspiring

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<https://www.facebook.com/firstpresoflynchburg/>
LIVE Video Streaming on www.fpclly.org at 9:30 a.m.
LIVE Radio Broadcast on WLNI 105.9 FM at 9:30 a.m.

Worship... Service of the Lord's Day

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

**Those who are able, please stand.*

Children are welcome and encouraged to remain in Worship. If needed, Nursery (Room 8) is available for children 3-years-old and under. Please ask an usher or greeter if you need any assistance locating the Nursery.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude **Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659** J. S. Bach
(Come, Savior of the Nations)

Bell Introit **Dona Nobis Pacem** M. R. Tucker
Chancel Ringers

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of Advent Wreath: Isaiah 11:1-10 Tom, Holly, and Caroline Capps

***Hymn #3: Comfort, Comfort You My People** Psalm 42

*Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.*

*Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain:
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

Prayer of the Day

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Moment

Marcia Thom-Kaley

Worship Workshop will not meet this morning. After the children's moment, children will return to their seats with their families to join them in encountering the hands-on stations following communion.

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Readings:

Matthew 3:1-12

Romans 15:4-13

(pew Bible, p. 2-3)

(pew Bible, p.163-164)

"Experiencing a Sacred Christmas: Encountering"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND GO OUT IN GOD'S SERVICE

Celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Encountering...

Community, National, and World Prayer Boards (Boards and Tables in Front of Sanctuary)

Offer prayers of compassion and gratitude for local, national, and international issues through written and artistic means and through the ancient practice of rending cloth.

Alternative Giving (Tables and Boxes in Rear of Sanctuary)

Alternative Giving is our way of thinking through how and why we give gifts to friends and family during Christmas. Learn about the work of four of FPCLY's ministry partners (two local and two international) and see if a gift "in honor" of someone to a ministry he/she is passionate about is how you would like to give a gift to him/her this year.

Packing Bags for *Food for Thought* (Narthex)

The *Food for Thought* program of Park View Community Mission packs and distributes over 1,000 weekend meal bags to students in Lynchburg City Schools every week. Learn more about this program and pack a bag or two that will help a child bridge the weekend gap between school lunch on Friday and breakfast on Monday.

**A Christmas Journey
(Hallways, beginning across from Columbarium Entrance)**

By connecting a lesser-known part of the Christmas story to the story of people around the world (and our own), this “three stop” journey is designed to help us think about the concepts of “waiting” and “home” during this season. Allow roughly 10-15 minutes for this opportunity.

**Personal Prayers of Wholeness and Healing
(Chapel)**

Step into the Chapel for a quiet space to pray for friends, neighbors, family, or yourself. Prayers can be offered through the lighting of candles, reading through a printed liturgy, or praying individually with Rev. Dr. Nancy Dawson. You can experience this either as a component of “A Christmas Journey” or as a stand-alone opportunity.

A rosebud has been placed on the baptismal font today to celebrate the birth of Eva Grace Aker who was born on November 29, 2022. Eva is the daughter of Helen and Tyler Aker and the granddaughter of Jenny and John Osinga.

Stewardship: God wants to partner with YOU!

2023 Pledge Cards and Narrative Budgets are available. If you have not yet completed your commitment to partner with God and God’s church here at FPCLY in 2023, we encourage you to do so as soon as you are able. We look forward to partnering with you!

Christmas Cookie Decorating

4th and 5th graders Sunday, December 4 @ 2:45 p.m. at the home of Becky and Caskie Giles .
Middle Schoolers, Wednesday, December 21 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Kara and Collin Byrne. **High Schoolers** Monday, December 19 @ 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of Laurie and Camp Sommardahl. Contact Marcia with questions.

Christmas Brunch – December 11 @ 10:45 a.m. (after worship)

Let’s gather in the Fellowship Hall in celebration and community for brunch and cookie decorating!

**Jericho Baptist Missionary Chapel 45th Annual Toy Barrel – through Friday,
December 16th**

All NEW toys/games/books are welcomed and can be placed in the barrel in the Foyer. These items will be distributed to families facing financial difficulties this holiday season. Contact Alex with any questions.

First Pres Presents The Bells of the Blue Ridge - December 17 @ 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a Christmas-spirit-filled concert as the *Bells of the Blue Ridge*, the premiere handbell ensemble of Central Virginia, present their Christmas concert.

Year-End Reminders from the Business Office

- **2022 Contributions.** All contributions *received in the office by close of business December 29* (due to office closure on 12/30) *or postmarked by December 31* will be posted to contribution statements for the 2022 tax year. Contact Lori Wright with any questions about your *2022 Annual Pledge* or your *Rooted and Reaching* capital campaign pledge.
- **Electronic Contributions (credit card or draft from your checking account).** You can make your credit card contributions now using the QR code to the right or your online bill pay system. Should you need assistance with either, contact Lori by **December 27** to ensure everything clears for the 2022 tax year.
- **Stock Gift Transfers.** If you plan to transfer stock for your contribution, *please complete those right away*. It takes time for the gifts to be transferred to our accounts & clear by the end of the year.
- **Expense Reimbursements.** Please submit requests for reimbursement for any 2022 expenses by **December 28**. Any checks written after December 31 will be charged to the 2023 budget.
- **Annual Pledge 2023.** If you have not completed your pledge for 2023, please contact Lori Wright.



Contact Lori Wright (lori@fpcly.org), FPCLY Business Director, with questions about any of the above.

**** Please view the calendar at www.fpcly.org or call the church office for more information. ****

Pastor on Call: Rev. Dr. Peter Thompson (336) 269-7270

Members Helping Members for December: Elinor Ann Clark 434-386-3889 or 434-841-7778,
Gail Kowalski 434-384-6058 or 434-942-1465

Call To Respond

2022 has been an interesting and, in some ways, a difficult year. For all of us, and equally for our Church. With about six weeks left in the year, our financial projections for 2022 look to show us with a revenue shortfall of almost \$100,000. We would like to make an appeal to all of you in the Congregation, as the Holidays and year-end approach, to make one extra Christmas gift for First Presbyterian. For those of you who regularly make a late year gift, please consider adding a little. If you fulfill your annual pledge on a monthly basis, please think about adding something to your December contribution. If you have already completed your 2022 Pledge, please add a little "Love Gift" to the Church in your plans. This really is a situation where, if we all help, the work will get done. Thank you for your considerations. Your Finance Committee: Bill Paxton, Chal Nunn, Kathryn Pumphrey, Frank Whitehouse, Dennis Howard, Dave Tate, Randy Nexsen, and Kirk Todd.