

Calendar

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

10:00 AM—Cantata Worship Service
11:00 AM—Faith Formation
11:00 AM—Puppet Practice
1:30 PM—Caroling at WWD
7:00 PM—B365 Bowman (Zoom)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Church office closed
5:00 PM—Family Service
8:00 PM—Candlelight Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day
Church office closed

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Church office closed

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:00 AM—Worship Service
5:00 PM—Service of Healing and Wholeness (Parlor)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Church office closed

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

New Office Hours
8:30am—4:30pm
9:00 AM—Yoga (Parlor)

Guest Musicians

Doug Leadbitter, trumpet 1
Julie Hunter, trumpet 2
Holly Beeson, horn
Brian Wargel, trombone
Allen Kaiser, tuba

FLPC Chancel Choir

*Pam Bond, Linda Byrum, Margaret Cundall,
Randy Dailey, Joe Davenport, Ann Elsenheimer,
Margaret Harris, Charles Huff, Deborah Joyce,
Norma Kirkland, Bob McKenzie, Katherine Patterson,
Becky Pittman, Ryan Poole, Sherry Presher, Tom Presher,
David Skinner, Xan Skinner, Suzanne Sloan, Amy Smith,
Page Sundby, Suzanne Thomas, Paul Van Wyke*

Worship Notes

- ***PLEASE BE AWARE** we live stream our worship and our services are video-recorded.
- ***LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND BIBLES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please ask an usher if you would like to use one during our service.
- ***CHILDCARE** is provided for all infants and children 6 yrs and younger.
- ***HEARING SYSTEM** available for those who are hearing impaired. Please ask an usher.
- ****PLEASE REMEMBER TO SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONE****

Office Hours are Monday– Thursday
8:30–5:00 & Friday 8:30-1:00 pm

6500 N. Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29206
www.flpc.org 803-787-5672

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:00AM

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Ed Black

PRELUDE

“Sussex Mummers’ Carol”
Arr. Michael Allen
Guest Musicians

***CALL TO WORSHIP** The Shepherd Candle
Wemberly & John Todd, and family

Leader: The shepherds were the first to hear the news!
People: The angels said, “Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.”
Leader: To you is born this day in the city of David a savior! The Messiah! The Lord!
People: The shepherds believed the angels and went to see what happend. Let us, with the shepherds, go to the manger. And with the shepherds, let us praise God!

***HYMN NO. 118** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord of Light and Life, from the beginning of creation until this day, you have spoken to humankind about your love and purpose. The Angels appeared to the Shepherds to proclaim Christ’s birth and told them not to be afraid. But we are afraid. Forgive us Lord, for we fear the power of evil in the world and do not trust your providential care. Forgive us Lord, for we fear change and resist being transformed into faithful disciples. Forgive us Lord, for we fear other people, forgetting that you make all humanity in your image. Forgive us Lord, for we fear the unknown, struggling instead to control the future which belongs only to you. Forgive our fear and fill us instead with love, hope, peace, and joy. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

**Those who are able, please stand.*

The Season of Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, and the season when we begin again to anticipate God’s coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Our task is to prepare our hearts and our lives to welcome this Messiah! This means we must evaluate our lives and hearts, admit that we often seek to worship other gods, and work to humble ourselves and worship God alone. Advent is the season that helps us prepare for a faithful celebration of God’s coming into the world and into our hearts.

A prayer of confession invites to reflect on God’s purpose for our lives. When we do this, we realize how we have missed the mark. This confession of our failures is not to make us feel bad, but to speak the truth about ourselves. The truth is that we sin. But the greater truth is that when we confess our sin, God’s nature is to forgive so that we are free to try again.

An assurance of pardon is one way of claiming God's promised forgiveness and grace. We believe that when we repent of our sin and ask God to forgive us that God does in fact forgive us. We don't need a preacher or priest to ask on our behalf. God deals with us directly as believers who seek to love and to follow.

Children learn to worship God by participating in worship, and we are glad to have our youngest disciples in the sanctuary. Time for Young Disciples is designed to include our children in worship, and to teach our children more about being a disciple of Jesus.

We give to God out of gratitude. And the work of this church depends on your gifts. Offerings may be made online <https://flpc.org/giving/> or use the QR code below.



***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Psalm 103:10-12*

God doesn't deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing, because as high as heaven is above the earth, that's how large God's faithful love is for those who honor him.

As far as east is from west – that's how far God has removed our sin from us. God is merciful. We are grateful!

***HYMN NO. 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.**

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Dr. Ellen Skidmore

(Children through 1st grade depart to Room #E107)

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Rev. Ed Black

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.

THE OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
Arr. Dan Forrest
Chancel Choir

***THE DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***THE DEDICATION**

May these gifts, given in gratitude and love,
Change us and the world to serve your purpose!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-20

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CANTATA

"Christmas Joy!"

Arr. Dan Forrest

1. On Christmas Night
2. O, Come Rejoicing
3. Joy to the World

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from "A Declaration of Faith," Chapter 10, Hope in God (ll. 1-16, 87-90)

God keeps his promises and give us hope. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle. All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish.

Jesus is Lord! He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.

***HYMN NO. 136**

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***SENDING SONG - HYMN NO. 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel"

***POSTLUDE**

"The First Noel (with O Come, All Ye Faithful)"
Arr. Jeff Anderson
Guest Musicians

Sanctuary Flowers

*Gifts have been given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Theron Smith,
By Mary Ann Smith*

We anticipate the coming of the Christ Child this morning with Dan Forrest's Christmas Joy! This short work features three festive carols that help us celebrate the season. The voices of our Chancel Choir, accompanied by piano and brass quintet will tell the wondrous story of the birth of Jesus. Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come!

A Declaration of Faith was adopted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States (a precursor to our current denomination) in 1977 as a "contemporary statement of faith, a reliable aid for Christian study, liturgy and inspiration . . ." It includes much that speaks directly to our current context and is useful for study and worship.

The Postlude is intended to provide worshipers a transition from praise and worship to serving God. If you wish to sit, listen to the music, and pray, please feel free to do so. Sitting for the postlude is your sign that you want space and time to conclude your worship. If you prefer or need to stand, move, and greet other worshipers, please do so. Please feel free to do either.