First Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 21, 2014

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(As we prepare to worship, please silence all cell phones.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Mark E. Diehl
Ritual of Friendship

PRELUDE (Handbell Choir) — *What Child Is This?* — *Greensleeves*, arr. Douglas Wagner

INTROIT — *Lost in the Night* — Finnish Folk Tune

Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming; rivers of life through its deserts are streaming,
Bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming. Come and save us soon!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP — Jennie, James, and Frances Zehmer

Leader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

(Lighting of the fourth candle)

Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when the Lord will give us a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel, God with us. *(From Isaiah 7:14)*

Response (Hymn No. 85, verse 4) — *Tif in veldele*

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming; tell the glad tidings. Let your light be shining.

Leader: Immanuel, our lifeline: a purple rope through times, knotted strongly, carrying the heaviest of loads, a rope woven with love that never breaks. All through the stars shall it reach; no one shall be denied reach of the rope. Immanuel, your love stands forever.

People: **Our hands will hold you high because you sustain and strengthen us forever and always. Amen.** *(composed by Sigfried Fullenkamp and the 8th/9th grade Confirmation Class)*

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 102** — *Savior of the Nations, Come* — *Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland*

***CONFESSION OF SIN** (remain standing) — Mark E. Diehl

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession

O Holy One, you offer forgiveness and love to all who turn to you. We turn to you now because we do not always praise you or feel like we need you. We have been too proud, and have not shared with the poor. Nor have we reflected your love to the next generation, as you would desire of us. Lord, hear our prayer and have mercy upon us.

(composed by the 8th/9th grade Confirmation Class)

Silent Confession

* Those who are able, please stand.

Declaration of Pardon

Response (Hymn No.134, verse 3) *Antioch*

No more let sins and sorrows grow; nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY Ellie Dilworth

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.
All: **Creating God, who chose a young virgin to be the mother of the promised Savior: fill us, your servants, with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her, rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

CANTICLE (HYMN NO. 67) *My Song Forever Shall Record* *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible, NT Page 26)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *A Carol* Roland Martin

Once for a shining hour, heav'n touched earth, hope was born anew, and peace reigned in the world.

SERMON *"How Can This Be?"* Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

Refrain: How can this be? With God . . .
All: **Nothing is impossible!**

(A moment for meditation.)

SOLO *Go, Tell It On the Mountain* arr. Robert Sterling

Caleb Conner, soloist; Phyllis Supple, piano

(Children through 1st grade enter worship during the solo)

***THE PEACE** Mark E. Diehl

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

***HYMN NO. 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* *Star of the County Down*

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

JOYS AND CONCERNS Mark E. Diehl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: I will sing of the Lord's great love forever;
People: **With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**
Leader: Let us pray.

(Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession)

. . . 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.

DEDICATION OF OFFERING

Offertory Voluntary — *Ave Maria* — Franz Biebl, arr. by David Smith

*Doxology (Hymn No. 143, verse 4) — *Regent Square*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One;
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

All: **Eternal God, we give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again, that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world. By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand, and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts. Fill us with gratitude overflowing that we may share life and love in praise to you, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

***HYMN NO. 119** — *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* — *Mendelssohn*

***BENEDICTION** — Marilyn T. Hedgpeth

***POSTLUDE** — *Swiss Noel* — D'Aquin

Pageant rehearsal will begin following worship in the sanctuary. Costumes will be distributed.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship here. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. So that we may better know each other, please sign the ***Ritual of Friendship pad***, pass it along the center pew across to the shorter side pew, and then **return it to the starting point**, noting the names of those sitting near you. On Sunday, December 14, we welcomed 26 visitors and their children to our worship service. Members are encouraged to greet these visitors. Your warm greeting expresses the inviting and hospitable character of this congregation. Your smile and welcoming words make a difference!

Special thanks to the Wind Ensemble for providing music for today's worship: ***Christyn Klinck***, flute; ***Sydney Curtis***, oboe; ***Li-Chen Chin*** and ***Jenna Kneepkens***, clarinet; ***Aurelia Klinck***, saxophone; ***J.L. Klinck***, horn; and ***David Smith***, bassoon.

Today's offertory, *Ave Maria*, was composed by Franz Biebl (1906-2001). He wrote it in 1964 for a choir of firemen in his small town in Germany and later arranged it for other groups of singers. A university glee club learned the piece while on tour in Germany and brought it back to the US, where it grew in popularity. The Latin words are taken from the story of the visit to Mary by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38). Our arrangement of *Ave Maria* for the First Presbyterian Wind Ensemble is by ***David Smith***.

The ***poinsettias*** in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and are a gift to the congregation from ***Arthur and Mary Clark***.

The ***Advent wreath*** is given by ***Sheila and Juliana Miglarese*** in joyful celebration of ***Sam Miglarese's*** 70th birthday and the 45th anniversary of his ordination. The ***sanctuary table*** upon which the Advent wreath sits was handcrafted by George Danser and is given to the church by him and his wife, Jean Cary.

The ***Advent paraments***, a gift from ***Anne St. Clair Williams***, were designed and created in 2012 by Laurie Wohl, an internationally known fiber-artist.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available from the ushers. Before you leave the sanctuary please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Nursery care for infants to 6 years of age is provided during worship on the second floor of the Education Building. After the sermon is delivered, children ages 3 to 6 join worship for the remainder of service. Childcare for infants – 2 years continues in the nursery. There is a changing table in the narthex, located to the left as you exit the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship bags and activity bulletins are available in the foyer for children and youth. Books are on the pews in the narthex for young children to read and enjoy should they need a break from the service.

Portions of ***today's worship texts*** are taken from *Book of Common Worship*.

Flower for worship: If you would like to donate flowers for worship during 2015, please contact ***Phyllis Verhey*** (919-973-2929 or pverhey@nc.rr.com) to reserve a Sunday. Families with standing reservations to donate worship flowers should reconfirm their Sunday for 2015 with Phyllis as soon as possible. New donors are welcome.

These Days devotional books for the first quarter 2015 have arrived. Pick up a copy (regular or large print) from the table in the church foyer while supplies last.

Join us this Evening!
Potluck Supper and Christmas Carols Sing-Along
5:30 p.m. in Watts-Hill Hall and the foyer

Each family should bring a favorite dish, i.e.: salad, meat or vegetable casserole, pasta, or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. If you plan to play along in the improvised orchestra, remember to **bring your musical instrument (and a music stand)**.

Pastor Nominating Committee – Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) met on Sunday morning, December 14, to assess its progress on gathering data needed to complete the church's Ministry Information Form. We are making good progress. However, due to the holidays PNC activity will be suspended during the remainder of December and will resume January 4th. We urge the congregation to continuing praying that God guide will guide the PNC as we seek to discern God's will concerning our new Senior Pastor.

Year-End Giving Reminders

Timely payment of pledges by December 31st will allow First Presbyterian to pay its end-of-year bills promptly and to meet its benevolence obligations for 2014. The church office must receive your charitable contributions by the end of the day (4:30 p.m.) on **Wednesday, December 31**, or the gift must be postmarked by December 31, 2014, if mailed, to be deductible on your 2014 taxes. If you wish to make a donation through a gift of stock, please notify ***Tom Bloom***, Business Administrator, (t.bloom@firstpres-durham.org) as soon as possible.

~ Serving Today ~

Acolytes: ***Graham Curtis***, ***Maddie Brigman***
Crucifer: ***Annabelle Brown***
Croasdaile Driver: ***Paul Cornsweet***
Narthex Greeters: ***Minnie Cameron***, ***Alice Raney***
After Worship: ***Mary Gitata*** (Font / side), ***Laura Hanson*** (Narthex)
Ushers: ***Karen Romines*** (head), ***Sherry Everett***, ***Carolyn Merritt***,
Mary Ann Compton, ***Eric Wiebe***, ***Dale Gaddis***

~ Our Concerns ~

We ask you to remember these beloved ones in your personal, family, and daily prayers. We also encourage you to support them with notes and cards during their time of struggle. Please also keep the pastoral staff up to date on the progress of your loved ones.

We extend sympathies this week to ***Jean Moore*** on the death of her sister, ***Pat Morgan***, in Atlanta, to ***John and Sue Fricks*** on the death of John's brother, ***Robert Fricks***, in California, and to ***Stephen and MargEva Cole, Eleanor, and Nathaniel*** on the death of Stephen's grandmother, ***Cynthia L. Cole***, in San Rafael, California.

Added this week:
Brent Curtis (knee surgery)
BJ Seitzer
Jacque Robins

Nowell Creadick ***Celia Dickerson*** ***Dorothy Graham*** ***Edward Kwon***
Christina and Jon Nelson ***Ann Prospero***

Carolina House (Durham): ***Julian Boswell***

Clare Bridge (Chapel Hill): ***Helen Garrison***

Croasdaile Village:
Pavilion: ***Bob Rankin***, ***Jerry Tyren***
Friendship Hall: ***Bob Keever***, ***Anne Davis***

Hillcrest: ***Randall McLeod***

The Forest at Duke:
Fran Bryant ***Joan Englund***
Ken Goldner ***Peaches McPherson***

Treyburn (Peak Resources):
Sara Anne Martin, sister of Beth Neece

- ***Dorothy Anderson***, grandmother of Laura Kelley
- ***Stuart Bethune***, father of Alec Bethune
- ***Ruby Brown***, mother of Eugene Brown
- ***Norma Cardoni***, mother of Sheila Breitweiser
- ***Ching-Chang Chin***, father of Li-Chen Chin
- ***Roger Edmund-Adcock***, father of Catherine Admay
- ***Gera Fleming***, mother of Christyn Klinck
- ***Brad Holbrook***, father of Kerry Holbrook
- ***Lawson Family***, Arlington, VA
- ***Louise Miglarese***, mother of Sam Miglarese
- ***Gladys Njenga***, friend of Mercy Ndambiri
- ***Hannah Joy Richards***, grandniece of Chuck and Jean Wilson

The Almighty Lord, who is a strong tower to all who put their trust in him, to whom all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth bow and obey: Be now and evermore your defense, and make you know and feel that the only Name under heaven given for health and salvation is the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. - **The Book of Common Prayer**

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24, 2014

"Live" Broadcast of King's College Lessons and Carols

Those of you who enjoy listening to the live broadcast of the King's College Service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve morning can **come to FPC and hear the 10:00 a.m. broadcast via the sound system in the sanctuary**. Many thanks to ***John Fricks*** for arranging this for us!

A Children's Christmas Eve Pageant with Holy Communion and Candle Lighting Service

5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary - Childcare provided

Pageant participants are asked to arrive in costume and sit with your family until called.

The recipient of the Christmas Eve offering will be Welcome Baby.

As we welcome the Christ Child, let us also welcome children born in Durham with loving arms and help provide a safe and healthy start to their lives. Welcome Baby provides free parenting education and support to any family residing in Durham with a newborn or children to age 5. It is a program of Durham County Cooperative Extension. Multiple workshops, Childhood Development Newsletter, Cribs for Kids, Clothing Closet, Car Seat Safety Program, community resource referrals and Spanish services are among the services offered.

Sunday, January 4

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship at 11:00 a.m.

Calling All Créches

Before you put your Christmas créches away, bring them to *church to display and discuss during the Faith and* Community Class at 9:45 on January 4th. If you have créches from foreign countries, or unusual créches which you would be willing to share with the congregation, please bring them with you to Watts-Hill Hall. We will leave them up after worship, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see them.

Epiphany Service

with Prayers For Our Community

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

7 PM at Iglesia Emanuel Hispanic Fellowship
(Durham Presbyterian Church)
2504 N. Roxboro St.

This event is being sponsored by First Presbyterian Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Iglesia Emauel Hispanic Fellowship.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today **After Worship:** Pageant rehearsal / costume distribution **No Children's Choir** **No Youth Handbells** **No Croasdaile Bible Study** **2:00 PM** Communion at The Forest at Duke **5:30 PM** Christmas Potluck and Carols Sing-Along	**Monday, December 22** No Bell Choir No Officer Meetings	**Tuesday, December 23**	**Wednesday, December 24** **Christmas Eve** **10:00 AM** A live broadcast of "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" from King's College Chapel (FPC sanctuary) **The Church Office will close at 12 noon** **5:00 PM** *(The sanctuary will be open beginning at 4:00 p.m.)* Christmas Eve Pageant with Holy Communion and Candle Lighting Service (Pageant participants should arrive in costume and sit with family.)
Thursday, December 25 **Nativity of Jesus Christ / Christmas** **The Church Office is CLOSED**	**Friday, December 26** **The Church Office is CLOSED**	**Saturday, December 27**	**Sunday, December 28** *First Sunday After Christmas* **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** **11:00 AM** Worship No Croasdaile Bible Study No Evening Youth Groups

The ***bulletin cover*** clipart image was retrieved December 15, 2014 from: http://cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/byn/rc/TN_ev1in01.JPG (Hermano León website).