



Rejoice

**Rejoice in the
Lord always.
I shall say it
again: rejoice!**

Phillippians 4:4

First Presbyterian Church

Durham NC 27701

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Weicher

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Chorale and 3 variations)

Johann Pachelbel

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: Let us sing praises to the Lord,

Leader: for God has done glorious things.

People: Let us shout aloud and sing for joy,

Leader: for great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

People: Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN NO. 362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Llanglofan

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that,
in the midst of your glorious creation,
we have neglected our role in its care.**

**We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,
those on the margins and those who are oppressed.**

We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors.

**We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds,
neither through our actions nor through our thoughts.**

**Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;
and lead us to act with compassion and justice,
guided by your glorious light.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Amy, Miguel, Alex, and Carlos Sanchez

Leader: We light our third candle,

People: we pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Leader: Come now, O Child of Mary.

All: Come now, O Prince of joy.

*Those who are able, please stand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jean Cary

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: God of signs and wonders,
we come to your word again and again,
seeking understanding and the new life it offers.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
illumine our hearts and minds
so that we may believe this testimony and have eternal life.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and Savior, we pray. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Jean Cary

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, OT Page 877)

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Genevan Psalter,

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.*

arr. David Ashley White

*Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.*

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

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Mindy Douglas

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, NT Page 198)

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Rejoice?"

Mindy Douglas

*HYMN NO. 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison) (adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus,
whose faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity.
Jesus gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be a servant for the reconciliation of the world.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

John Weicher

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

John Weicher

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

John Weicher

Leader: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid,

(Isaiah 12:2)

All: for the Lord God is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

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.

*HYMN NO. 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

Marion

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Mindy Douglas

*POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Wachet auf, arr. Robert Hobby



Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On December 5, 136 joined us for in-person worship and 34 households watched the live-streamed broadcast.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and wood from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: FPC commissioned **Laurie Wohl** to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber-artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. The text on the Advent parament hanging from the pulpit, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: "*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*" The text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: "*The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.*" We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne 'St. Clair' Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

Many thanks to **John Fricks**, **Jody Maxwell**, **JL Klinck** and **Keith Rokoske** for their technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of *today's worship texts* were reprinted from *Call to Worship 2021-2022 Year C* and *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion*.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children's playroom are available on the second floor of the Christian education building for use during worship.

Worship activity bags are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

Large print worship bulletins along with **children's worship / activity bulletins** are available in the foyer.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

Masks are still required: The congregation will continue to be masked when inside as an act of generous hospitality to children who cannot yet be vaccinated and transplant recipients and others on medication that reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

Worship Flowers for 2022: The signup chart and instructions for donors are now available online. Use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-flowers2> to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2022.

Two Part-time Positions Open at FPC

Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

FPC is looking for a part-time, non-exempt **Audio-Visual Technical Director of Worship Production**. The position is 10 hours a week, including Sunday mornings. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past or current employers) to this email address:

AVTechnical@firstpres-durham.org.

FPC is also looking for a **custodian for Sunday mornings** (building and grounds preparation, security, and event set-up and clean-up). The position hours are Sunday mornings from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with some flexibility required. A criminal background check will be conducted. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past employers) to this email address:

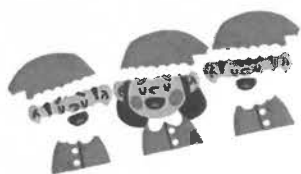
sunday-sexton@firstpres-durham.org.

All Kids (and interested adults) Active Advent Faith Formation

FINAL CALL: Next Sunday, **December 19**, kids and any interested adults should gather outside in the courtyard at the church between 10:00 and 10:45 a.m. for faith formation! We will complete the video scenes, acting out the Christmas story for our Christmas Eve pageant presentation. Maybe you want to be an angel, a shepherd, Mary, or Joseph? Come one, come all! We have plenty of costumes.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE COMING SOON! Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

FINAL CALL: Is your photo missing, or would you like to change your photo in the latest FPC pictorial directory? Has your address, email, or phone number changed since July 2021? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please submit your photo and/or updated contact information through the Church Life App or email the photo or updated contact information to **Sybil King** in the church office at: **s.king@firstpres-durham.org**. The deadline is **Monday, December 6**. An updated directory will be made available to members in early 2022.



JOIN US
SATURDAY, 12/18
TO WATCH THE

Durham Christmas Parade

The fun begins at 11am on
the steps of FPC.

Hot chocolate provided.

BYOBAM: Bring your own
blanket and mug.



OUTDOOR FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

You are invited to park at the church and gather in front of the sanctuary (Main Street steps) and cheer on those walking in the parade this **Saturday, December 18** from 11:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. FPC will provide hot chocolate (bring your own mug and a blanket to keep warm).

ADVENT LESSONS CAROLS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 19

11:00 a.m. – A Service of Lessons and Carols

A Service of Lessons and Carols refers to the iconic Christmas service that is broadcast to the world over the radio from the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, every Christmas Eve. The service consists of reading nine lessons, taken from various books of the Bible, covering the main themes of the Nativity story. In between the lessons come various pieces of music in the form of carols and hymns involving a choir or the whole congregation.

The PC(USA) Joy Gift Offering which supports financial assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and PC(USA) racial ethnic schools and colleges will be received during worship next Sunday, December 19. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church - past, present, and future - who point us to God. Special envelopes will be available in next Sunday's bulletin.



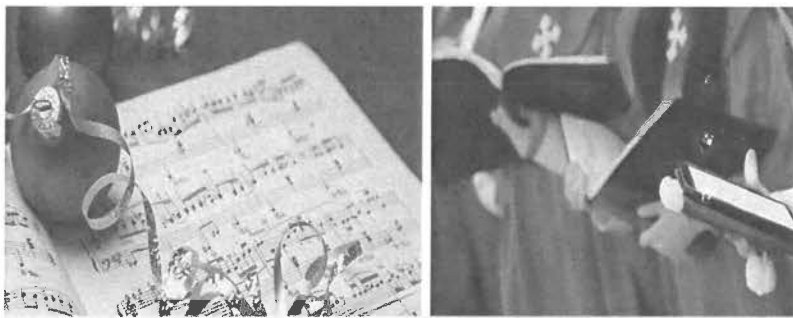
A Christmas Offering

Sunday, December 19, 2021
3:00 p.m. in the FPC sanctuary

Join *Lesley Curtis* (soprano) and *Deborah Coclanis* (piano)
for a program of Christmas musical offerings.

This event is free and open to the public.
Masks are required for attendees.

Caroling and Sweet/Savory Swap



JOIN US FOR FPC'S ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 4-5:30PM
BRING ANY GOODIES TO SHARE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED.
OPTION TO CAROL IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OR STAY AT
THE CHURCH.
ALL ARE INVITED TO FELLOWSHIP AFTER SINGING.

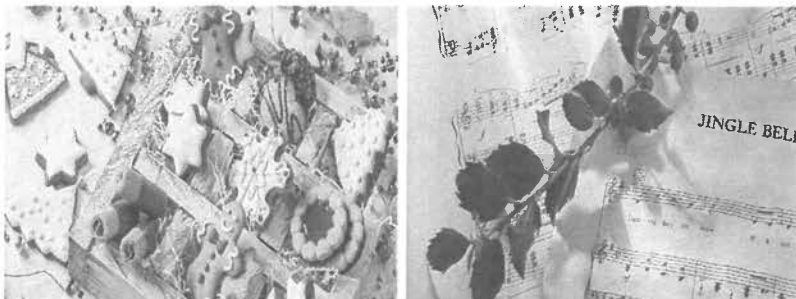
**Come for the caroling; stay for the
sweet/savory treats exchange!**

On **Sunday, December 19**, join us for
an evening of caroling, fellowship, and a
sweet/savory treats exchange.

Drop off your goodies in Watts-Hill Hall by
4:00 p.m. then come carol in the courtyard
followed by a stroll to sing with our neighbors
at Urban Ministries.

At **5:00 p.m.** we'll head into Watts-Hill Hall
where you can pick up portioned and
packaged goodies and make your swaps.
Don't forget to bring a bag or basket to take
home your treats!

*****Remember all contributions to the
treats exchange should arrive in individual
portioned, packaged servings.*****





Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)

The story of the birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in a pageant video, and in word and song, and the service concludes with the Lord's Supper and candle lighting. An offering will be received to support Welcome Baby of Durham.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to *Johanna and George Bernhardt* and family on the death of Johanna's brother, *Daniel Cheney*, on December 6th at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Concerns: *Harold Dunlap* has received a cancer diagnosis.

Mark Higgins, foot surgery on Tuesday

Conrad Carter *Paul Cornsweet* *Kerry Holbrook*

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams, recovering at home

Care Communities:

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: *Arthur Clark*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Julian Boswell, Jim Wolfe*

Walter Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Carolyn Bonner, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Mimi Cummings, mother of Drew Cummings

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

Jim Leshner, father of Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Ty, Laurel, Joe, & Cheli Seddon, family of Martha Seddon, former FPC Parish Administrator

Richard Smith, husband of Laura Casteel's co-worker

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

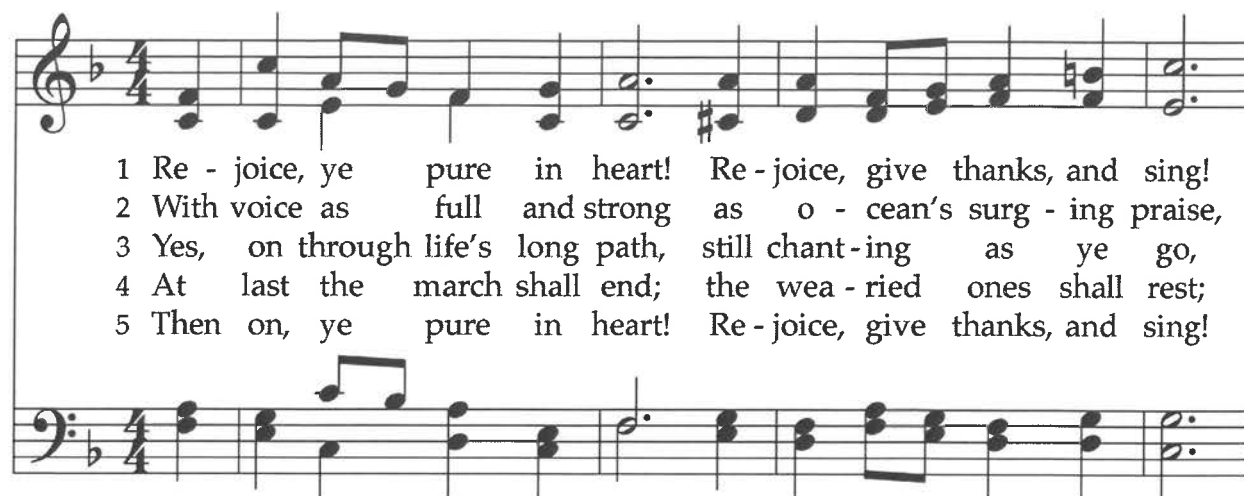
Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

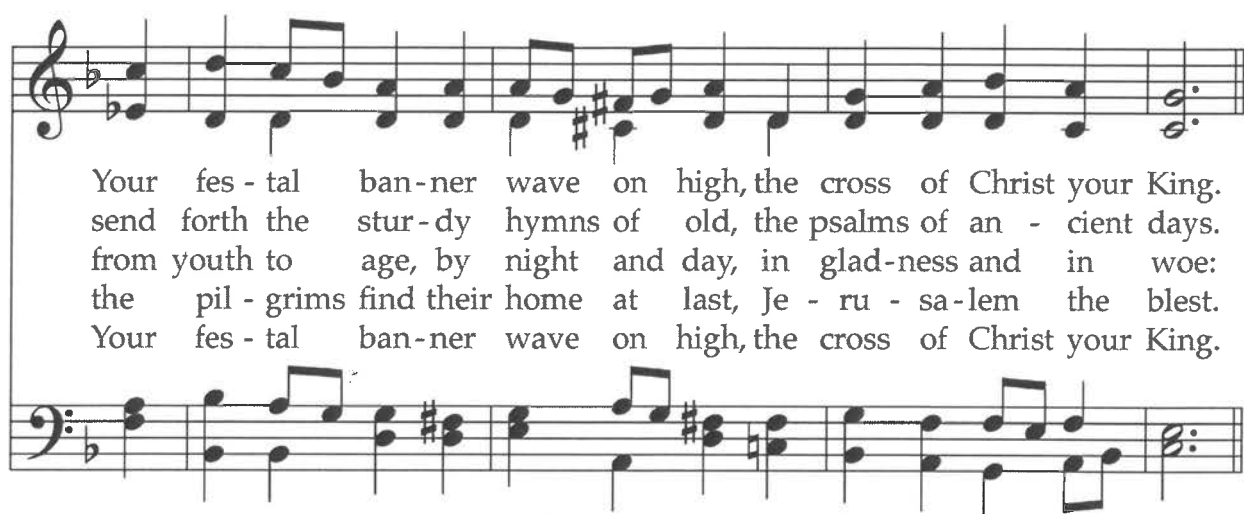
Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

804 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
 3 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as ye go,
 4 At last the march shall end; the wea - ried ones shall rest;
 5 Then on, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
 from youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:
 the pil - grims find their home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



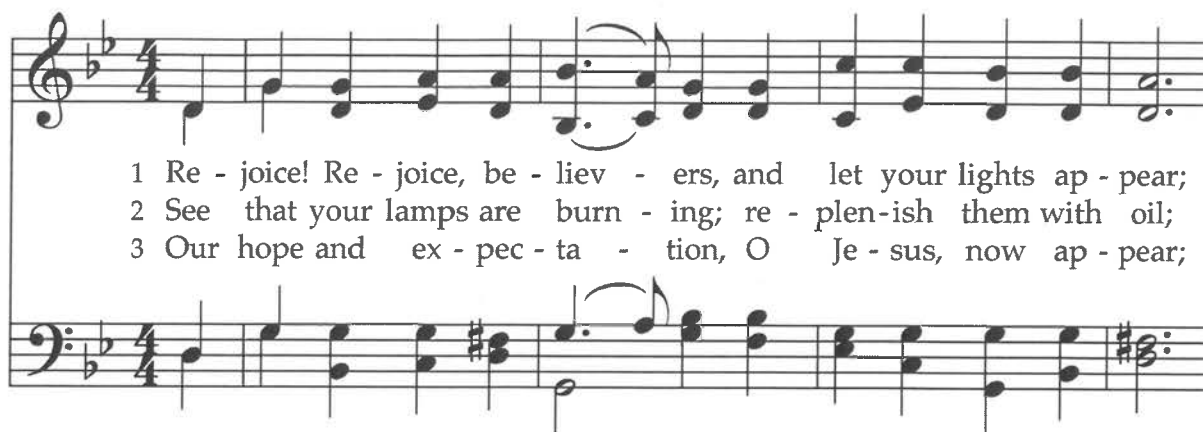
Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



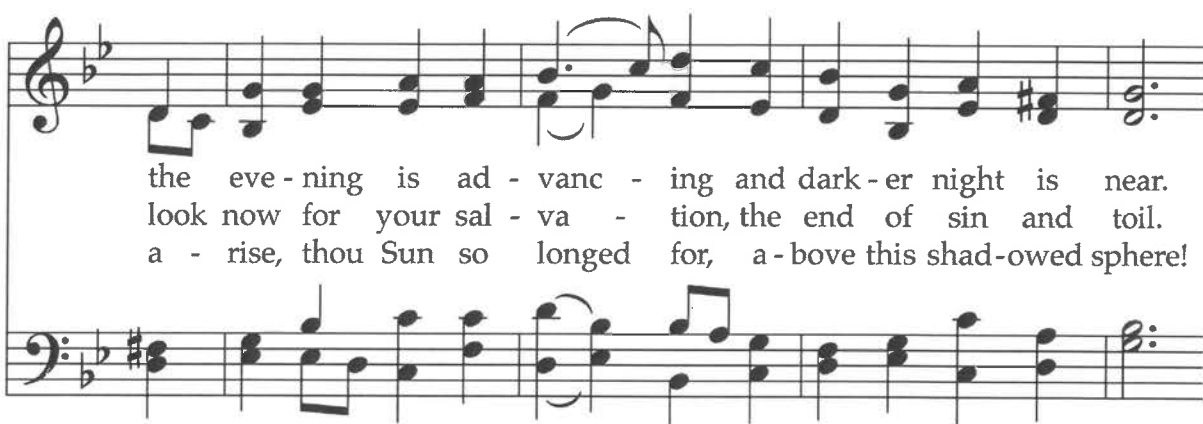
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



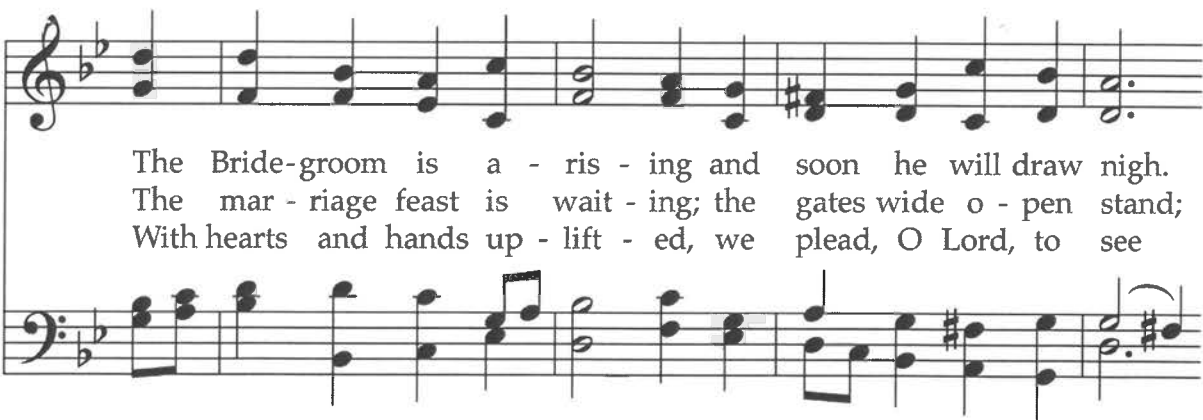
362 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



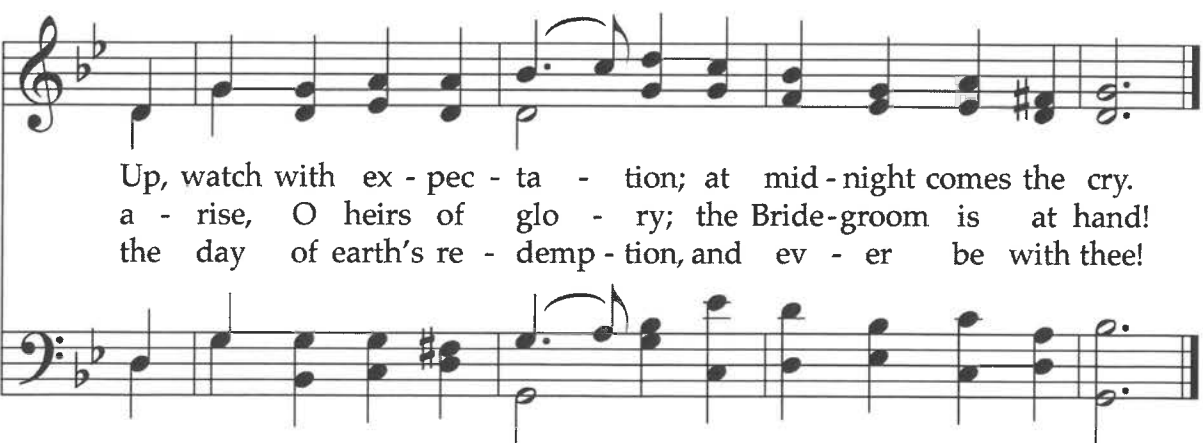
1 Re - joice! Re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing; re - plen-ish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon he will draw nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, watch with ex - pec - ta - tion; at mid - night comes the cry.
 a - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today 8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (**See below) Zoom ID: 87574376074	Monday, December 13 1:00 PM Plan Worship 2:00 PM All Staff 6:00 PM Christian Education Committee 7:00 PM Worship & the Arts Committee	Tuesday, December 14 6:15-7:15 PM INSPIRE Book Study Zoom ID: 85812997340	Wednesday, December 15 11:00 AM-12 Noon INSPIRE Book Study Zoom ID: 85812997340 6:00 PM Stewardship Committee 7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 16 6:00 PM Day School Board	Friday, December 17 <hr/> Saturday, December 18 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Durham Christmas Parade Watch (Sanctuary steps)	Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent 9:45-10:45 AM Faith Formation Classes for Adults, Confirmants, and Middle Schoolers 10:00-10:45 AM Active Advent Faith Formation for Children and interested adults 11:00 AM A Service of Lessons and Carols 12:00 PM Youth Group Lunch 12:30 PM Women's Spiritual Formation Class at the home of Susan Dunlap 3:00 PM A Christmas Offering featuring Lesley Curtis (Soprano) and Deborah Coclanis (piano) 4:00 PM Caroling and Sweet & Savory Treats Exchange (FPC Courtyard / Downtown area and Watts-Hill Hall) 8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle Fellowship Zoom ID: 87574376074	

**** Meaning in the Middle (M'nMs)**, formerly known as Scratch, is a Sunday evening online faith formation discussion community of FPC. We meet to share the ups and downs of our lives and discuss a (very) short reading about faith. We talk about how to find God and meaning in the middle of wherever we are: as Christians, as professionals, as friends and family, as parents, as middle-of-life adults (whatever that circumstance might look like for you). We also gather for monthly picnics or potlucks and have an annual retreat for planning and fellowship. New folks are always welcome.

~ Church Staff ~

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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ORGANIZED 1871