



## First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent  
Checking God's Vision of Peace

**NOVEMBER 28, 2010**  
**11:00 A.M.**

### **THE CHURCH GATHERS . .**

**PRELUDE**      *With the first notes of the organ please silently prepare yourself for worship.*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE**

**INTROIT**      **“Let Us Light a Candle in the Darkness”**  
Words by the Very Rev. Robert Willis.  
Music by Richard Shepherd

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE  
OF PEACE**      **Leaders: Mary Lu Andreu and Family**

**Leader:** During Advent we light our candles to help us to turn our faces to the light.

**People:**      **To the light of God revealed in creation.**

**Leader:** During Advent we light our candles to help us in the midst of all the busyness of this time of the year to turn our faces to the light.

**People:**      **To the light of God revealed in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.**

**Leader:** During Advent we light our candles to help us in all of the darkness of this world to turn our faces to the light ---

**People:**      **To the everlasting light of God that is still stronger than all the darkness of this world.**

Leader: We turn our faces to the light and celebrate all that God has done.

**People: We turn our faces to the light to catch a vision of all that God is still wanting to do.**

Leader: We turn our faces to the light that we may see more clearly all that God is doing even now in the life of this world,

**People: and in each one of our lives.**

Leader: Today we come to light a candle in the darkness of our world,

**People: and to turn our faces to the everlasting light of God seen in the gift of Jesus,**

*(The Lighting of the First Candle)*

**All Sing:**

*St. Louis*

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

Leader: Our first candle turns our faces to God's vision of peace in all of the darkness and turmoil of this world,

**People: and prompts us to pray that God will release us from our fears,**

Leader: and free us, and the whole world, from all of the sin,

**People: that stands in the way of God's vision of peace becoming a reality in our world today.**

**\* HYMN FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT No. 1** *Stuttgart*  
**"Come, Thou, Long-Expected Jesus"**

**CALL TO CONFESSION AND LITANY OF CONFESSION**

*from the Brief Statement of Faith of  
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Leader: In sovereign love God created the world good,

**Unison: and makes everyone equally in God's image**

Leader: male and female, of every race and people,

**Unison:** to live as one community.

Leader: But we rebel against God;

**Unison:** we hide from our Creator.

Leader: Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God  
in others and ourselves,

**Unison:** accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,

Leader and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.

**Unison:** We deserve God's condemnation.

## **PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE**

### **SUNG RESPONSE SEEKING GOD'S FORGIVENESS** *St. Louis*

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!**

**So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.**

**No ear may hear His coming but in this world of sin,**

**Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

### **THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *from the Brief Statement of Faith of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

Leader: Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**Unison:** In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose  
a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Leader: Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the  
house of bondage.

**Unison:** Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the  
covenant.

Leader: Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

**Unison:** like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home.

Leader: God is faithful still.

### **\* SUNG RESPONSE OF ASSURANCE FOR ADVENT** *St. Louis*

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;**

**Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

**We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;**

**O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

**TO HEAR AND REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD...**

**A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN**

**Rachel Christopher**

*(Children age 5 and under are excused to go downstairs after our Children's Time)*

**PAUL ENCOURAGES US TO WALK IN THE LIGHT OF GOD**

**Romans 13:11-14**

**The Response:** Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM:**

**"O Come, O Come, Immanuel"**

**Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth**

**ISAIAH SHARES GOD'S VISION OF PEACE**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

**The Response:** Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**"Checking Our Vision with God's Vision of Peace"**

**Dr. Christopher**

**TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...**

**\* PRAYER HYMN FOR THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO COME TO OUR  
DARK WORLD No. 325**

*Nun Danket All' Und Bringet Ehr'*

**"Spirit of God, Attend Our Prayers"**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION**

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**THE OFFERTORY**

**\* THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE FOR THE ADVENT SEASON**

*sung to the tune Veni Emmanuel, found at No. 9*

**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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come in love,  
Our darkness to dispel.**

**\* THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\* THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*(Presbyterian Hymnal, page 16 traditional, using debts and debtors)*

**TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .**

**\* PRAYER HYMN FOR THE LIGHT OF GOD IN OUR DARK  
WORLD No. 452**

*St. Michael*

**“O Day of God, Draw Nigh”**

**\* THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE FOR ADVENT** *Houston*

**“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

*(please see insert – Stanza One and Refrain)*

**\* POSTLUDE**

**\* All who can do so comfortably will stand**

Pastor: Huw Christopher

Director of Music: Lawrence R. Nelson

Elder of the month: Betty Jo Hatcher

Organist: Stanley Littleton

Administrative Assistant: Valerie Marlow

Custodian: Ron Jones

Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Branham Skipper

**To Our Guests** – Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Marianna. We are happy to have you worship with us today. We invite you to join us each Sunday, as we worship and study God’s word. If you would like more information concerning our church, you may fill out one of the *Welcome* cards in the pews and place it on the offering plate, talk to the ushers or the pastor, or call the church office.

**Nursery care** is available for children Kindergarten and below during our Worship Service each Sunday morning. Children may be taken to the nursery before the service begins, or after the Time with Our Children.

**Our Prayer Calendar:** Terry Dyer (Presbytery of Florida Executive) Sally Roos, Christine Crews, Jim Lewis (brother of John Lewis), Glenda Mullins (sister of Dorothy Carpenter), Jack and Shirley McGee (requested by Janie Harmon) Jerrett Linton (nephew of Frankie Stewart), Bob Ward (son of Mary Wierman), Carla Riley (requested by Mary Skipper) Deborah Lewis Coronato (daughter of Alex and Joy Lewis).

The sympathy of the church is extended to **Guy and Ginger Green** and family in the death of her uncle, Harold "Cheese" Stewart of Perry, Florida on November 20, 2010.

Our **newsletter** will be collated on Thursday. Any articles for this newsletter should be forwarded to the church office at [firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net](mailto:firstpresmarianna@earthlink.net) by noon on Wednesday.

The **Adult Sunday School** will hold their Christmas Party this Thursday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. All members of our Adult Sunday School Classes, and all of our Sunday School teachers and Christian Education leaders are invited. The meat and bread will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish to enjoy. You are encouraged to bring gift items for the Monroe House at Sunland.

Every Sunday morning there are **Sunday School Classes** for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. There are three classes for Adults. Next Sunday the Adults in the parlor will begin a new series entitled, "Comfort for God's People," with next week's session being, "The Highway for God," based on Isaiah 40:1-5, 25-26, 29-31. Upstairs the Adult Class in Room 4 and the Young Adult class in Room 2 will be studying the texts to be used in our Worship Service from Isaiah 11:1-10 and Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19.

Next Sunday the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated at our Worship Service as we share in checking our vision with God's Vision of Hope. Any people who are not able to attend our worship services on a regular basis who would like to receive communion at home following next Sunday's service are asked to contact the church office at 526-2430 by Friday at 3 p.m. so that arrangements may be made.

**Breakfast** will be served next Sunday from 9 until 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Our **Food Pantry Offering** for December will be received at our Worship Service next Sunday. On Wednesday, November 17, we served a record 128 families in a two hour period through our food pantry. A thank you also, to the **Juniorettes** of Marianna High School, sponsored by the Marianna Woman's Club, for their donation of canned goods to the food pantry, and to Gayle DiBenedetto, their advisor, for delivering the food.

The Sr. and Jr. High Youth Groups will be offering **FREE gift wrapping** for the congregation next Sunday, December 5, in the Fellowship Hall from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.. Just bring your gift items in a box, and we will wrap them for you.

“The Christmas Cross”, a **resource for families** to use during the four weeks of Advent is available on the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall. One packet is needed per family.

Copies of the new ***Our Daily Bread*** for December, January and February are available on the table in the narthex and on the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall.

If you have not returned your **Commitment Form for 2011**, please do so this morning, or as soon as possible. Copies of the form and return envelopes are available where you picked up your bulletin this morning, or from the church office during the week.

The new **Church History books** are available for sale from the church office during the week. The cost for the History books is \$20.00 each, or 3 for \$50.00. Checks for the books may be made to the First Presbyterian Church.

As of last Sunday, \$509.50 had been received for our Thanksgiving Offering for Thornwell Home for Children. Further gifts may be given with checks being made payable to the First Presbyterian Church and designated, “Thornwell.”

**Appreciation** is extended to all who helped to decorate our church facilities for the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

The M & M’s (Music and Mission) children of the church invite you to help with a special Christmas Project for the residents of **Monroe House in Sunland**. The M & M’s are going to decorate and fill 15 Christmas Bags for the residents, and would appreciate your help in collecting some of the items from their “Wish List”. Suggested items are:

Lotion, Body Spray, Soap (lightly scented), Deodorant, Costume Jewelry (no earrings), Footies (Fuzzy type), Socks with grippers on the bottom, Scrunchies (hair holders), Nail Polish (small bottles), and Moisturizing Lip Balm.

These items can be left in the mission suitcase in the hallway outside the fellowship hall. If you would rather contribute money instead of shopping, the M & M’s will do the shopping for you. Contributions can be left in the mission jar, on the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Checks may be made payable to the First Presbyterian Church and designated Monroe House Christmas. Gifts should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 12.

Those who would like to be in our annual **Christmas Pageant** to be held on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm are reminded to be in contact with Rachel Christopher by Sunday, December 5, at 482-8118, or email [rachelc25w@earthlink.net](mailto:rachelc25w@earthlink.net). The one rehearsal will be held following the worship service and Montreat luncheon on Sunday, December 12.

### **This week in the life of the church . . .**

Today           Worship and Music Committee at 12:15 p.m. in the parlor  
Monday        Ladies Exercise Class 9:00 a.m.  
Tuesday        Evangelism and Fellowship Committee at 6:30 p.m. in the Spivey House  
Wednesday    Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. The volunteers are Mary Ann Gibbs, Marianne Lonsinger, and Jeff Allen.  
                  M and Ms (Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) from 3-5 p.m. at the church  
                  Choir rehearsal at 5:15 p.m.  
                  Church Officer Development Class at 5:30 p.m. in the Spivey House  
                  JuBELLees rehearse at 6 p.m.  
Thursday      Newsletter collated at 1 p.m.  
                  Adult Sunday School Christmas Party at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall  
Friday         Ladies Exercise Class 9 a.m.  
Sunday (5th)  Breakfast from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall  
                  Sunday School for all Ages at 9:45 a.m.  
                  A Celebration for the Second Sunday of Advent of God's Vision of Hope  
                  and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Worship at 11 a.m.  
                  Free Gift Wrapping by our Junior and Senior High Youth 3 – 6 p.m.

***Have you contributed to the 1835 Endowment Fund?***

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Serving God with Faith, Hope and Love since 1835**  
**Corner of Jefferson and Clinton Streets**  
**Marianna, Florida**  
**(850) 526-2430**  
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