

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**



First Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 18, 2011

11:00 A.M.

**A Celebration of the Jesus, the
Desire of Nations and All Peoples**

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Natalie Sleeth

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE
OF THE DESIRE OF NATIONS**

Leaders: Amy, Chris, Cooper and Tatum Milton

Leader: During Advent we gather around the Advent Wreath and light special candles,

People: **to remind us of Jesus, the Light of the World.**

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate his birth again

People: **we pray that he might be born anew in our lives,**

Leader: that we may feel the warmth of his joy and peace in our lives,

People: **and may reflect that joy and peace in all that we do.**

Leader: This Advent we remember who Jesus is using words and music based on titles from the Old Testament.

Unison: **These are ones that Christians have used during Advent since the 8th century.**

*** ALL SING OF THE COMING OF GOD’S GIFT OF PEACE No. 13**

Bereden Vag For Herran

“Prepare the Way”

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we look at the light of the candle of your desire for every nation, we have to admit that it is not just other nations of this world, but our own nation that has not always been ready to follow your desire for every nation. Please forgive us.

Gracious God, as we look at the light of the candle of your desire for every nation, we have to admit that it is not just other people but we ourselves who have not always been ready to follow your desire for every nation. Please forgive us.

As we continue to celebrate this Advent Season and prepare to celebrate the birth of the One whom you desire to be the desire of every nation, remind us of the joy and peace you desire to bring to the lives of all who will claim him as their Redeemer.

PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER SEEKING GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Truro

**Redeemer, sent from heaven above
To fill the world with heaven’s love
Come to us now, O living way,
And lead us to God’s promised day.**

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*** SUNG RESPONSE OF DEDICATION**

Truro

**Redeemer, come, I open wide my heart to you, here, Lord abide
Let me your inner presence feel your grace and love in me reveal.**

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)

ISAIAH SPEAKS OF GOD'S HEAVENLY PEACE

Isaiah 2:1-5

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

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Words by Charles Wesley

Music by Roland Hugh Prichard,

arranged by David G. Schreiner

and "And the Glory of the Lord"

from "Messiah" by George F. Handel

PAUL SPEAKS OF GOD'S GIFT OF PEACE IN JESUS

Ephesians 2:11-22

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

People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Choosing to Follow the Desire of Every Nation"

Dr. Christopher

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...

*** HYMN OF GOD'S GIFT TO THE WHOLE WORLD NO. 27**

Tempus Adest Floridum

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THE OFFERTORY

**“Offering”
Youth Choir**

Paul Baloche

*** 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 . . .

*** HYMN OF GOD’S GIFT OF JOY TO THE WORLD No. 40**

“Joy to the World!”

Antioch

*** THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

*** THE RESPONSE FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Truro

**O dear Desire of Nations bind
All people in one heart and mind
Help us your joy and peace to show
Here in our earthly life below**

*** POSTLUDE**

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

To Our Guests – Welcome to the 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: Ray Brendemuehl, Bert Andrews, John Lewis, Debbie Moxley, Kathy Sloan and Cheryl Waldee (requested by Susie Stevens), Betty Linton (mother of Frankie Stewart), Glenda Mullins (sister of Dot Carpenter) Grace Champion (requested by Joy Lewis), Bill McQuagge (cousin of Bob Pitman), Frank Syfrett (requested by Gina Stuart) Laura Creasy (grand-daughter of Clyde Hand), Leroy and Grace Mears (requested by Glenda Sebastian) and from our Presbytery Prayer Calendar: The Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received this morning The insert in the bulletin outlines part of how this offering will be used by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as it is divided equally between the Board of Pensions, to offer supplemental retirement income, and medical insurance for retired ministers, missionaries, church workers, and their families, and the Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges of our denomination. Please use the special envelopes in the bulletin for this offering. As of last Sunday \$77.00 had been received for this offering.

Rachel and Huw Christopher invite everyone to join them for an informal **Christmas Open House** for the whole family this afternoon from 3 until 5 p.m. at the manse, 4380 River Forest Road (opposite the baseball fields at Chipola College)

Everyone is invited to share in one or both of our Christmas Eve Services this Saturday, December 24. Both services will be held in our sanctuary.

At 5 p.m. there will be a Christmas Eve Service for Children and their Families with children of all ages having an opportunity to participate in the telling of the Christmas story.

At 6:30 p.m. our traditional Christmas Eve Service will center on the theme of “Choosing the Presence of Emmanuel in Our Lives.” The service will include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, carols for choir and congregation, and will conclude with Candle Lighting, and the singing of the carol, “Silent Night.” This service will be preceded by special Christmas Organ Music played by Stanley Littleton.

Many congregations in the Marianna area do not hold services on Christmas Eve, so please invite family members and friends from the community to participate in one or both of these services with you. Childcare will not be provided for either of these Christmas Eve services.

Next Sunday, December 25 there will an Intergenerational Christmas Day Sunday School Program reflecting on the meaning of the Christmas Story in the fellowship hall beginning at 9:45 a.m. Refreshments will be available by 9:30 a.m.

Our Worship Service on Christmas Day, next Sunday, December 25, will be a celebration of Lessons and Carols from around the World. In addition to the carols to be sung by the congregation and choir, familiar carols will be played on the organ by church organist, Stanley Littleton, and by a handbell quartet of Betty Blighton, Rachel Christopher, Gracie Wallace and Joy Wallace.

Appreciation is extended to all who participated in our **Christmas pageant** last Wednesday night, and to all who helped to plan and organize it, as well to provide for the delicious supper. Please see the pictures on our picture board.

Copies of the new ***Our Daily Bread*** for December, January and February as well as a special Christmas Edition are available on the table in the narthex and on the table in the hallway outside the fellowship hall, and from the church office during the week.

If you have not returned your **Commitment Form for 2012**, 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 Session will be reviewing the 2012 church budget on Tuesday so your response by that time would be most helpful to them.

Looking Ahead

Church Office Closed for Christmas: Monday, December 26

Valerie Marlow, our Administrative Assistant on vacation: Tuesday, December 27 and Wednesday, December 28

Wildflowers Meeting: Wednesday, December 28

New Year's Eve Games Night: Saturday, December 31 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

New Year's Day, January 1: Coffee and Juice at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m.

A New Year Celebration of the Name of Jesus with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 11 a.m.

Christmas Decorations Taken Down: Wednesday, January 4 at 6 p.m.

This week in the life of the church . . .

Today Christmas Open House at the Manse from 3 until 5 p.m.
Monday Ladies Exercise Class 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday Bagging for Food Pantry: Ron Goold, Matt Brickler and Marianne Lonsinger
Session meets at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall
Wednesday Food pantry is open from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. The volunteers are Ron and Willie Mae Goold, Kerri Loving and Marianne Lonsinger
Choir rehearsal at 5:15 p.m.
Friday Ladies Exercise Class 9 a.m.
Saturday Christmas Eve Service for Children and Families at 5 p.m.
Organ Music for Christmas Eve begins at 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Candlelighting at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday (25th) CHRISTMAS DAY
Coffee and Juice at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall
Christmas Day Sunday School Celebration for all Ages at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall.
A Celebration of Birth of Jesus with Lessons and Carols from around the world at 11 a.m.

Pastor: Huw Christopher

Director of Music: Lawrence R. Nelson

Administrative Assistant: Valerie Marlow

Nursery Assistants: Mary Skipper and Branham Skipper

Ruling Elder of the Month: Scott Yant

Organist: Stanley Littleton

Custodian: Melissa Krebeck

First Presbyterian Church

Serving God with Faith, Hope and Love since 1835

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