

**A Celebration
of the Coming of Christ
Sunday, December 20, 2015
at 11a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**



PRELUDE THE CHURCH GATHERS...

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

THE CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND SHARING OF COMMUNITY LIFE

HYMN OF PREPARATION # 9

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

All Verses

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

THE CANDLE OF JOY!

Earnest and Frances McNeill

We light this candle in hope.

Light the first candle

We light this candle for peace.

Light the second candle

We light this candle in joy!

Light the third candle

We light this candle with love.

Light the fourth candle

Out of love for the people of God, the Lord speaks through the prophet

Isaiah, as found in the seventh chapter, verses 10-14:...

Let us Pray.

Family and Congregation in Unison:

God of hope, Prince of peace, Jubilee Judge, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE #10**

“On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry”

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Maker, we confess that we don’t always know
how to share the good news of your coming with others.
We are loathe to offend, draw attention, or open ourselves up
to criticism. Forgive us, God of grace and so fill us with your love,
that we can’t help but share it with our neighbors;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray...**

***PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION IN SILENCE**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE #579**

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 AND REFLECT ON GOD’S WORD . . .

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

ANTHEM

‘Let Us Light a Candle in the Darkness

Text: Vy. Rev. Robert Willis

Music: Richard Shepherd

In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
To the light of God revealed in Jesus,
To the Daystar scattering our night.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:57 - 80
Pew Bible Page #832

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Rev. Emily Proctor

“Finding Our Tongue”

TO RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD . . .

* HYMN OF AFFIRMATION #335

“Though I May Speak”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND SUPPLICATION

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be the 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.**

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

THE PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE #592**

“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.**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

TO GO OUT AND SERVE . . .

***HYMN OF PROCLAMATION #148**

“At the Name of Jesus”

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***THE RESPONSE FOR CHOIR AND CONGREGATION #8, vs. 1 & 3**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

***POSTLUDE**

Note: An “*” invites all who can do so comfortably to please 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 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.

During the Advent Season **Poinsettias** are gracing the sanctuary to the Glory of God and the Coming of the Christ Child. Poinsettias are still available for purchase should you want to give as a memorial or in honor of a loved one. The names of those donating the flowers will be listed in the bulletin at the end of December.

Our Prayer Calendar: JoAnn Wynn(requested by family),J R Gortemoller (requested by family), Elizabeth Littleton Walker (requested by Stanley Littleton), Dr. Steve Stafford (requested by Barry Stafford), Janice Smith (requested by Hazel Nelson), Jeff Allen (requested by Hazel Nelson), Destry Burch and Fletcher Dunaway (requested by Mary Bevis Schmidt), Abby Reed (requested by Mary Wierman), George McMullin (requested by Nancy McMullin, Bob Ward and Michael Ward (requested by Mary Wierman), Kena Nelson (requested by Hazel Nelson), Marie Lanier (requested by Joy Lewis), Harold and Tammy Pumphrey (requested by Louise Pumphrey), Louise Pumphrey, Gina Stuart, Joy Gilbert, Daun Crews, Stanley Littleton, JoAnn Rountree.

Every Sunday morning there are **Educational Classes** for all age groups between 9:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. There are three classes for Adults. Next Sunday, December 27th, the Adults in the parlor will be studying: A Generous Gift, Matthew 23: 2-12; Mark 12:38-44.

Upstairs, the Adult Class in Room 4 will be studying the Lectionary scriptures.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) 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. Special envelopes for this offering will be included in the bulletin **today Sunday, December 20th.**

Rev. James Stansbury will lead us in our **Christmas Eve Service**, Thursday, December 24, **at 6:00 p.m.** The Christmas Eve Service will be centered on the theme of “A Light Shines in the Darkness” The service will include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper 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.

To all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church,

On Sunday, December 20th, we will be wrapping Christmas presents in the fellowship hall to show our gratitude and appreciation for all that you do. Packages may be dropped off before or after church in the fellowship hall, and at 4:00. We will be wrapping until our task is complete. All presents can be picked up after 7:00 p.m. Please remember to include your TO: and FROM: names. Thank you for all of your support and donations that will allow us to participate in the 2016 Montreat Youth Conference!

Your Youth Group

This week in the life of the church . . .

Today Christmas Joy Offering
Choir Practice at 10:00 a.m.
Youth Christmas Gift Wrapping Service 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Monday Ladies Exercise Class at 9:00 a.m.
Lunch Bunch Circle at 11:30 at home of Kathy Milton

Wednesday Choir Practice at 4:00 p.m.
Wild Wonderful Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:15p.m.

Thursday Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.
Office Closed

Friday Office Closed

Sunday Coffee, Juice and Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.
Education Hour at 9:45 a.m.

Ruling Elder of the Month: LuAnne Law
Church Administrator: Kathleen Evans
Organist: Stanley Littleton
Custodian: Becky Strickland
Pantry Coordinator: Melissa Krebeck
Nursery Assistants: Tina Bigale and Carlee Wilson

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