

First Presbyterian Church
CLEVELAND, GA



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Growing together by sharing Christ's love

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We Gather to Worship God

Prayer of Preparation for Worship

Exuberant, life-giving God, as Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit, was moved to bless Mary's child, so fill us with your Spirit that our neighbors' hidden hopes may be blessed and brought to birth, to the glory of your name, through the fruit of Mary's womb, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prelude to Worship "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (arr. Mark Hayes)

Opening Sentences for Advent

Jesus says: I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Doug and Retha Puvogel

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you,
hope to follow you,
love to live for you,
and wisdom to know you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen.

Response in Song "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" (v. 4)

GtG #85

**Call to Worship*

Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**He shall be great to the ends of the earth.
Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
God's mercy extends from generation to generation.
Holy is God's name!**

**Hymn*

“Once in Royal David's City”

GtG #140

** Prayer of the Day*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy.
Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride, power, and possessions.
Though we know your story,
we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray.
Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world—
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Believe the good news:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***Song of Response** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” (v.4) GtG #143
**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.**

We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Micah 5:2-5a Elaine Wiegert

Anthem “Carols Around” (arr. Carl Nygard Jr.)

Gospel Luke 1:39-55

Sermon “Bearing Christ” Rev. Burnetta Armour

***Hymn** “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” GtG #100

We Respond to the Word of God

***Affirmation of Faith** Adapted from The Smaller Catechism (Q&A 21-22)

Who is the Redeemer of God’s elect?

The only Redeemer of God’s elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

Remember in Your Prayers

*Family, friends and those recovering will be kept on our pastoral care list for one month unless an extension of time is requested. Please notify the church office of any changes. **Bold** print indicates new prayer requests. You can call the church or send your new requests to info@fpcleveland.org.*

Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized

Family of Rev. Dr. Bill Hines

Beth Everling

Gail Rollin

Wes Wesley

Beth Chambers

Family and Friends

Jim Rodgers, friend of Susan and Kim Mitchell

Larry Parsons

Lois Albert, Penny Murdoch's sister

Cara Jackson, high-risk pregnancy

Sister Mary Warner, friend of Pastor Burnetta

Connie Fahad, friend to Penny Murdoch

Odum Family, family to Bernice and John Rogers

In the Military

Zack Ciriello Ciriello and Murdoch family
Charlsie Maddox.....Maddox family
Tyler LovellRoyds family

The Week at a Glance

Monday, December 23

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 24

Office Closed

6:00 Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed

Friday, December 27

Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

10 am Brunch and Fellowship

Announcements & Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24, 6:00 pm.

The church office will be closed from December 24 - January 1. We will re-open on Thursday, January 2.

Join us on Sunday, December 29, for brunch and fellowship. The FCP family will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for a potluck brunch and informal worship service. We will sing, share memories, and pray for God's blessings during the coming year. To let us know what you are bringing, there is a sign-up sheet in the Upper Narthex.

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are provided by:

Debbie Wessely - In honor of FPC musicians David Arvold, James Gieger, and Rachel Ficklin

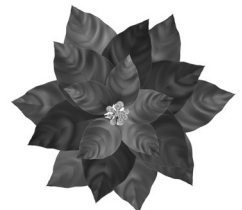
Jeannette and Bob Wiley - In honor of their 47th Anniversary

Nanette and Phil Baughman - In memory of their parents

Barbara Chambers - In memory of Lanier Chambers

Rita and Bruce Morgan - In memory of their parents

FPC Choir - In memory of Paula Callaway



THE SESSION

Reverend Burnetta Armour, Moderator

Bruce Morgan, Clerk of Session

Jim Hiers, Clerk of Session, Emeritus



Class of 2024

Phil Baughman
Worship

Jim Crawford
Membership

Class of 2025

Bruce Morgan
Administration & Finance

Hugh Walters
Building & Grounds

Elaine Wiegert
Discipleship

Class of 2026

Judy Massingale
Membership

Nancy Webber
Communications

THE DIACONATE

Rita Morgan, Moderator

Judy Massingale, Session Liaison

Class of 2024

Viveca Cooper
Debbie Wessely

Class of 2025

Rita Morgan
Adele Page

Class of 2026

Kim Ciriello
Bob Thomason

Pastor:	Rev. Burnetta Armour
Director of Music:	David Arvold
Accompanist:	James Geiger
Organist:	Rachel Ficklin
Usher:	Elaine Wiegert
Greeters:	Charles Massingale, Hugh Walters, Collin Armour
Liturgist:	Elaine Wiegert
Elder of the Month for December:	Judy Massingale
Deacon of the Month for December:	Kim Ciriello