

# First Presbyterian Church

CLEVELAND, GA



December 8, 2024  
*Second Sunday in Advent*

*Growing together by sharing Christ's love*

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 8, 2024**

**We Gather to Worship God**

***Prayer of Preparation for Worship***

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

***Prelude to Worship***      “Wexford Carol” (arr. Kenon Renfrow)

***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***

Susie Allen

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you  
and hope to follow you.

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

***Response in Song***      “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (v. 2)  
GtG #85

***\*Call to Worship***

John came out of the wilderness to preach repentance;

he preaches to us still.

**Make straight the paths we now walk  
and prepare the way for God's reign of justice and love.**

*Prayer of the Day*

*\*Hymn*                      "Prepare the Way, O Zion"                      GtG #106

*\*Call to Confession*

*\*Prayer of Confession*

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets, and we have not listened.  
We have not always determined what is best  
or made a way for your reign  
in our lives, our church, and our society.  
Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

*\*Assurance of Pardon*

Friends, I am confident of this:  
if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.  
The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.  
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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

## **We Hear the Word of God in Scripture and Song**

*Prayer for Illumination*

*Old Testament*                      Malachi 3:1-4                      Nancy Webber

*Anthem*                    “Advent Hymn” (Patrick M. Liebergen)  
*Gospel*                    Luke 3:1-18  
*Sermon*                    “A Voice in the Wilderness”            Rev. Burnetta Armour  
*\*Hymn of Response*      “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”      GtG #96

## **We Respond to the Word of God**

*\*Affirmation of Faith*                    Based on The Second Helvetic Confession  
John the Baptist testified that Christ is the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

**Wherefore, we quite openly profess and preach that Jesus Christ is the sole Redeemer and Savior of the world, the King and High Priest, the true and awaited Messiah...and that God appointed him beforehand and sent him to us, so that we are not now to look for any other. There only remains for all of us to give all glory to Christ, believe in him, rest in him alone, despising and rejecting all other aids in life.**

### *Offering*

#### *Offertory—A Time of Reflection*

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (arr. Carol Tornquist)

*\*Song of Gratitude*                    *Doxology* (to the tune of *The First Nowell*)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
born is the King of Israel.**

## The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God? ...

With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation,  
we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**Hymn** "Holy, Holy, Holy"

GtG #552

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (D) F (G) (A) (D) B<sup>b</sup> C F

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of the  
2 Bless - ed is he who comes in the

(A) C (D/F#) F/A (F#m) Am (G) B<sup>b</sup> (A) (Bm) C Dm

pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

(G) B<sup>b</sup> (D) F (A) (Bm) C Dm (Em7) Gm7 (A) (Dsus) (D) C Fsus F

full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus...

...With thanks and praise, we offer ourselves to you,

Sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising,  
and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!

**Hymn** “Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen” GTG #553

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)  
 B<sup>b</sup> C Dm B<sup>b</sup> F C Dm Gm7 C Fsus F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us—  
 ...through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all glory and honor are yours Almighty God,  
 now and forever.

**Hymn** “Amen” GTG #554

A - men, a - men, a - men.

TEXT: Tract, liturgical text  
 MLSC: American folk melody; arr. Richard Prosser, 1995  
 Music Arr. © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc.

LAND OF REST

Breaking of the Bread  
 Communion  
 Prayer After Communion

*\*Hymn*

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

GtG #418

*\*Charge and Benediction*

*\*Benediction Response* “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Refrain Only)

GtG #88

*Postlude* “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (arr. Robert Thygerson)



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

## *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](mailto:info@fpcleveland.org).*

### **Members' Special Needs, at Home, or Hospitalized**

**Gail Rollin**, not feeling well

**Wes Wessely**, eye surgery

Hugh and Lindalee Walters and family, great grandson passed away

Beth Chambers, back surgery

### **Family and Friends**

**Cara Jackson**, high risk pregnancy

**First Pentecostal Church**, building fire

**Sister Mary Warner**, friend of Pastor Burnetta

**Connie Fahad**, friend to Penny Murdoch

**Odum Family**, family to Bernice and John Rogers

Beth Smith

Mountain Lakes Resort

The Russell Family, Betty Royd's niece's family

Jo Quinn Smith, Adele Page's friend

Rev. Roe Callaway, wife, Paula, passed away

### **In the Military**

Zack Ciriello ..... Ciriello and Murdoch family

Charlsie Maddox.....Maddox family

Tyler Lovell .....Royds family



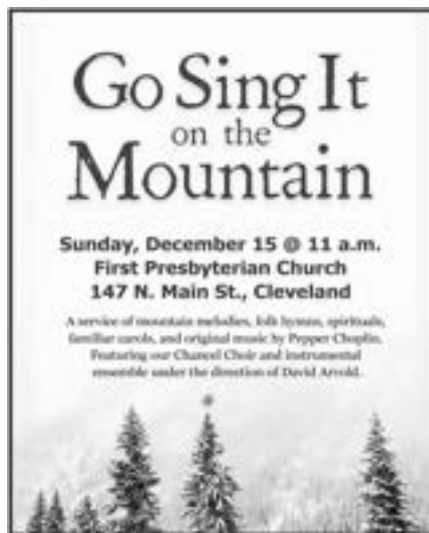
## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

### ***Go Sing It on the Mountain*** *a musical worship experience in the folk tradition*

The Christmas story will be told in narrative and song during the worship service on Sunday, December 15, at 11 a.m.

The Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists will present *Go Sing It on the Mountain*, a cantata composed and written by Pepper Choplin. Inspired by American music traditions, it features mountain melodies, folk songs, spirituals, and familiar carols. The program will be directed by FPC Director of Music David Arvold.

Please invite others to join you for this unique celebration of the Lord's birth. Flyers are available in the Upper Narthex for giving to friends and family members or for posting at local businesses.



After Christmas, take a deep breath and come to church on Sunday, December 29, for brunch and fellowship.

The FCP family will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10 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.

Get creative with your leftovers and bring a breakfast/brunch dish to share. The Worship Team will provide fruit juice and coffee.

## **Announcements & Upcoming Events**

**Congregational Meeting** - will be held today, December 8, after the worship service. We will be electing new officers for the coming year.

**The Christmas Card box** will be available this year in the upper narthex. To save postage, bring your cards for your church family and put them in the box, which is set up alphabetically. Remember to check the box and pick up your cards. Please leave cards only for attending members since they will not be mailed if not picked up.

**Advent Bible Study:** This year we are studying *On the Way to Bethlehem* by Rob Fuquay. We meet on Wednesdays at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall from through December 18.

**Christmas Luncheon** - December 10 - 1:00 pm. We look forward to seeing everyone who signed up to join the Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men at their annual Christmas Luncheon at Chicago Pizza in Demorest. Please remember to bring a toy for a child affected by Hurricane Helene. We will order from the menu and pay our individual checks.

**Donations for 2024 Tax Year** - Please turn in your donations by Tuesday, December 31, if you need them posted to 2024 for tax requirements.



## *The Week at a Glance*

### **Monday, December 9**

Office Closed

### **Tuesday, December 10**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

1:00 Christmas Luncheon

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

### **Wednesday, December 11**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

12:30 Bible Study

### **Thursday, December 12**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

8:00 - 12:00 TGP

### **Friday, December 13**

9:00 - 1:00 Office Hours

### **Saturday, December 14**

10:00 Choir and Orchestra Practice

### **Sunday, December 15**

11:00 Christmas Cantata

12:15 Session Meeting

Pastor:

Director of Music:

Accompanist:

Organist

Usher:

Greeters:

Liturgist:

Elder of the Month December:

Deacon of the Month December:

Rev. Burnetta Armour

David Arvold

James Geiger

Rachel Ficklin

Roy Ficklin

Charles Massingale

Hugh Walters

Collin Armour

Nancy Webber

Judy Massingale

Kim Ciriello

# 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



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