

Our Mission

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

Welcome to today's worship service. We are delighted that you are here. If you are visiting, we invite you to join by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by reaffirmation of faith, or by transfer. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

SERVING TODAY

Minister of Discipleship	Jackson Weller
Music Director	Ashley Stanley-Robey
Sound	C. B. Strange
Video	Alex Walthall
Liturgist	Jay Hayes
Greeter	Gail Jones
Side door/Offering	Dave Clark

BUDGET UPDATE

	October 1 - 31	YTD
Contributions	\$12,535.38	\$316,266.87
Expenditures	\$31,914.26	\$462,960.56
Difference	(-\$19,378.88)	(-\$146,693.69)

List of Session members

Class of 2024: Kathy Dolianitis, Brenna Takata*, Barbara Wilkins*, David Swann

Class of 2025: David Clark, Sam Meadema*, Eddie Blount*, Jackie Rochford*

Class of 2026: Barry Cutright, Gail Jones*, Kim Wimer

*Denotes Steering Committee Members

First Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

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www.fpcdanville.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A Service for the Worship of God

GATHER TO GLORIFY GOD

3rd Sunday of Advent ~ December 15, 2024

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Alleluia, He Comes to Us" arr. Michael R. Keller

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: **Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

People: **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

INVOCATION

Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

HYMN# #134

Joy to the World

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

December 16th CE Committee 4:30pm—**Cancelled**
December 17th Handbells 5:00pm
December 18th Wednesday Night Dinner 6:00pm
December 19th Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm
December 21st Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 8:00am
Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am
Behold the Lamb of God 2:00pm

Great News!! The treasured church Christmas Breakfast sponsored by the Outlook Class returns this year on December 15 at 9:15 AM in Overbey Hall! There will be delicious homemade breakfast casseroles, ham biscuits, sausage biscuits, fruit, donuts, coffee cakes, juices, and coffee for everyone to enjoy. If you are able to help, speak to a class member. Plan to come with your family to celebrate the coming of the Christ!

The JOY Offering is a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. These funds are distributed to two recipients, the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping future Christian leaders of color. Gifts of over one million dollars in 2023 were distributed to support needy retired Presbyterian church workers or their spouses for assisted living, in-home care, or long-term care. Your offering will bring JOY to both older Presbyterians and students who are in need of help. Joy envelopes are in the window sills and the back tables.

Andrew Peterson's Behold the Lamb of God is a concert that we will host Saturday December 21st at 2pm. Mercy Seat, Unity, Holbrook, Williamson will also be invited! Invite your friends to this wonderful event, which traces the Advent of Christ from the Exodus to the birth of Jesus. We'll have snacks to watch the concert.

We will be Christmas caroling Sunday December 22nd at 1:45pm. Anyone interested please meet at the Sutherlin Entrance.

“An Advent Alleluia”

Based on Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)
and the hymntune HYFRYDOL by Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887)

Text by Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner (b. 1952)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Alleluia (twentyfold)

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Alleluia (eightfold)

About the Anthem:

Contemporary American composer and arranger Douglas Wagner cleverly combined two beloved tunes in this creative piece for mixed voices. He took the hymn tune, HYFRYDOL, and paired it with Pachelbel’s famous Canon in D, altering the rhythms to align in 4/4 time. The tune HYFRYDOL was composed by Rowland Huw Prichard, a Welsh textile worker turned musician. The hymns, “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus” and “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” are often sung to this tune throughout the year, while “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” is heard during Advent and Christmas.

Douglas Wagner is originally from Chicago and attended Butler University. He studied organ with Ernest White there before embarking on a thirty-year career as a high school music educator and administrator. Since his retirement from teaching, Mr. Wagner has devoted himself entirely to composing and arranging. His catalog includes more than three thousand musical works for nearly every medium – choir, concert band, orchestra, handbells, organ, piano, and voice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus. “Call him Jesus,” the angel says, “For he will save the people from their sins.” From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us, the children of God, stand and greet those around us with a handshake, hug, or reconciling words, sharing God’s blessings and then remain standing for the “Gloria Patri”.

RESPONSE

“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.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

With gratitude for God’s faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Love Came Down at Christmas" Irish tune/Plainchant,
arr. C. Dobrinski, Kayla Stork, flute

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

ANTHEM "An Advent Alleluia" J. Pachelbel/R.H. Prichard
arr. D. Wagner

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (518/492) Isaiah 12:2-6
(874/832) Philippians 4:4-7
(762/725) Luke 2:8-12

SERMON "Joy" Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN#136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "O, How Joyfully! *with Joy to the World*" L. Mason,
arr. C. Berry

The flowers that enhance our worship service are give in loving memory of the deceased members of the Wiseman Family by Paige and Frank Wiseman.