

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 | David Clark |
| Video | Alex Walthall |
| Liturgist | Ray Beale |
| Greeter | Gail Jones |
| Side door/Offering | David Swann |

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 29, 2024

11 a.m.



937 Main Street

Danville VA 24541

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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

1st Sunday of Christmas ~ December 29, 2024

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “What Child Is This?” English melody,
arr. Jason W. Krug

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

People: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Leader: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

People: Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

INVOCATION

Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation.
Glory of God, fill this sanctuary and expose the darkness that stalks our souls.
Light of God, shine with such brightness that we marvel in awe.
Glory of God, fill each temple of the Holy Spirit present today.
Light of God, Glory of God, we welcome you in this place.

HYMN#133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Wednesday January 1st Office Closed

Thursday January 2nd Bible Study 10:30am
Choir 4:30pm

Saturday January 4th Saturday Lunch Ministry 11:30am

The JOY Offering will continue to be collected through the month of December.

Looking ahead, Session will have a training seminar Saturday January 11th starting at 10am. Dave Baker will be leading the session. January 19 we will have an installation service for our new officers.

“Look Again at the Child”

By Suzanne Lord (b. 1946)

Look, look again at the child in a manger. Open your heart to the love that you see.

Is it only at Christmas you pause to remember?

Is it only at Christmas you wait breathlessly—

For the love of the Lord to change gray winter mornings

Into sweet times filled with love and with joy?

Look again. Look again.

For the gift goes far beyond the season. It is love from above.

Come and welcome this Child for a glorious reason: in him is the best of God’s love!

Look, look again at the child in a manger.

Open your heart to the love that you see.

Is it only at Christmas you pause?

Look again. Look again. Look again.

About the Anthem:

Composer Suzanne Lord has led a very interesting life. She was born in Brooklyn, New York. At thirteen, Suzanne moved to Mississippi with her mother and sister after her parents’ divorce. Dr. Lord described the segregation she witnessed in the Deep South as akin to apartheid. Music became an outlet for her while processing this culture shock and her family’s separation. She attempted to study music in college but decided to drop out as she felt she was falling behind. Suzanne made a hippie’s pilgrimage to San Francisco and later New Mexico where met her future husband. They relocated back to New York and parted ways. She raised her son working as a typist, a writer, and then associate editor for Scholastic Magazines. When her magazine was discontinued, she went back to school for music at Brooklyn College Conservatory. Graduate degrees followed in quick succession. Suzanne is Associate Professor Emerita of flute and music history at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where she taught for many years before retirement. She also published two books, *Music from the Age of Shakespeare* and *Music in the Middle Ages*.

Dr. Lord was studying as a doctoral student when she wrote this beautiful anthem reminding us to take time to consider the beautiful gift of Christ and the blessings in our lives. We can choose to be generous, grateful, and reflective all year, not only at Christmas. I love Dr. Lord’s writing because she somehow manages to invoke whimsy and order, nostalgia and hope, and the joy of childhood with the quiet wisdom of an adult reflecting on a life well lived. Which daily blessings might we be overlooking as we rush into a new year? Can we keep celebrating Christmas in the week ahead? How can we keep our eyes on the Child in the manger for a bit longer? Let’s look again at the extravagant gift of Christ for all humankind.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Instead, we think more highly of ourselves and our own knowledge, choosing to go our own way in this world. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, as we depend on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

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 (Hebrews 13:15)

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: “Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Good and gracious God, in this season during which we have given and received so many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, so our gifts may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERTORY: "Away in a Manger" "Good King Wenceslas," "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High"
arr. David Burndrett | Charlotte Garrett, Ashley Stanley, and Kayla Stork, flute trio

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 "Look Again at the Child" by Suzanne Lord

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Wisdom, as the Scriptures teach us, truly it is the spirit in a mortal, the breath of the Almighty, that makes for understanding. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, that we may be encouraged and strengthened to live lives worthy of our calling as your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (877/834) Colossians 3:12-17
(763/725) Luke 2:41-52
(789/750) John 1:12-13
(860/818) 2 Corinthians 5:15-17

SERMON "Who Are You?" Jackson Weller

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN# 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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.

POSTLUDE "Il est Ne" French carol arr. David Overton, ed. James Galway
Charlotte Garrett, flute and Jack Garrett, snare drum

BENEDICTION