



The Senses of Christmas

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Greer, South Carolina

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Greer, SC 29651
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Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Hayes

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.
We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Hymn # 450

Be Thou My Vision
verses 1 & 2

SLANE

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession *please meditate silently on the prayer as it is offered by the liturgist*

God of all nations and people:
you call us to prepare your way in the world, seeking peace, justice, and
working for reconciliation, but we admit Lord we are more often obstacles
rather than instruments of your peace.
We are prone to fear, prejudice, and distrust of folks who do not think, act,
and believe like us.
Forgive us, and by your Spirit, renew in us the longing for peace for the
common good and vision of your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven;
through Jesus the Christ, the Prince of Peace and Hope of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Response # 103

Come Now, O Prince of Peace
verse 1

O-SO-SO

Come now, O Prince of Peace;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Readings Mark 8: 22-25; Luke 4:18; John 12:40; John 9:5

Sermon *“The Sights of Christmas”*

Prayers of the People

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn # 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See* **OPEN MY EYES**
verses 1 & 2

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Charge & Benediction

Benediction Response # 82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* **HYFRYDOL**
verse 1

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.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Postlude *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* **arr. Nelson**

Welcome to worship on this First Sunday of Advent. Please indicate your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at lisaj@fpcgreer.org.

Please note that we now have the capability to accept your offering via text message. Please text GIVE to 18649993612. You may also give on our website or by mailing a check to the church office.

Reminder—it's not too late to turn in your 2021 Pledge Card. You can mail or drop it off at the church office, email it to our Financial Administrator, Lynn Bennett at lynnb@fpcgreer.org, or place it in the offering plates stationed in the sanctuary. Thank you for pledging your support to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church Greer.

2021 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up at the church during regular office hours (Mon.-Wed., 9:00-4:00 and Thurs., 9:00-3:00). The envelopes are located in the hallway at the Door A entrance.

Advent Sermon Series—today we begin an exploration of “The Senses of Christmas”. Together, we’ll seek to discover how God speaks to us through sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. As we wait and prepare for a fresh “sense” of Advent & Christmas, let us prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits once again for the living Christ to enter in.

Christmas Morning Shoppe—FPCG will once again be participating in Greer Relief’s Christmas Morning Shoppe. The Christmas Morning Shoppe is an opportunity for parents and guardians (who have participated in Greer Relief’s programs during the year) to schedule a time to come and shop for family Christmas gifts. **We invite you to drop off donations of new, unwrapped items for boys, girls, teens, men and women of all ages. Infant and toddler toys, bike and helmets, games, craft kits, make-up and toiletry kits are all welcome! Items can be brought to the church during office hours anytime before Thursday, December 3rd.**

Heart disease is the number one killer in America. 17 million folks die each year. This is more than all cancer deaths combined. Our church has developed an American Heart Association certified First Responder program to provide life saving skills should someone suffer a cardiac arrest or heart attack. Please consider joining our 26 trained First Responder team members. For more information contact Bill Koehler at koehlern@aol.com or 864-968-9238.



Ministers: All Members of the Congregation
Interim Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Pete Peery
Associate for Pastoral Care, Adult Education and Mission: Whitney Moss
Parish Associate: The Reverend Dr. Al Masters
Director of Youth Ministry: Victoria Robinson
Director of Music: Lisa Dillard
Assistant Director of Music: Pam Turnage
Praise Team Leader: Wendi Arms
Director of Operations: Maggie Wentzky