



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Greer, South Carolina

100 School Street
Greer, SC 29651
(864) 877-3612
www.fpcgreer.org

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Pacem Noel
FPC String Ensemble

arr. Moses/Clark

Call to Worship & Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming.
We are preparing ourselves for the days
when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Hymn # 145

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,
we strive to present ourselves to you and others
as if everything is right within us.
Yet, if we tell you how it really is with us
we must admit
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
We are burdened by what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Forgive our hiding ourselves from you.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Assurance of Pardon

Response # 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
verse 2

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.

Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Moment for Children

Soloist

Every Valley
Micah Arms, tenor

John Ness Beck

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

1 John 1: 1-2:2

Sermon

"Touching—What is Real"

Dr. Peery

Affirmation of Faith

from "A Declaration of Faith", Presbyterian Church, U.S. 1977

Jesus, the long expected Savior,
came into the world as a child,
descended from David,
conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

Prayers of the People

Offering

Response # 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

THE FIRST NOWELL

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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn # 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

arr. Varner

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

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Special thanks to Micah Arms and the FPC String Ensemble (Rebecca Aguirre, Caroline Dillard, Caroline Greene, violin; Ginger Greer, viola; Lisa Dillard, Marcy Roseveare, Lucy Smith, cello) for leading our musical worship today.

Join us this afternoon at 2PM for a special Celebration for Whitney Moss as she leaves this congregation to accept a call to serve as the Pastor of Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church. The celebration is taking place in the back parking lot. We hope to see you there!

Reminder—An FPCG Celebration of Advent takes place today at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Please join us this evening for our virtual Joygift service! Today's prelude is a teaser of the music you will hear. There are 7 ensembles of our FPC musicians and Scripture will be read by many of our children and youth. We will publish to YouTube at 6:00pm. We invite you to have your punch, cookies, and candles ready at home.

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.

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