



# *The Senses of Christmas*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Greer, South Carolina

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[www.fpcgreer.org](http://www.fpcgreer.org)

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*The First Noel*  
Resounding Joy Handbell Choir

arr. McChesney

**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 what is to come.  
The Lord will give you a sign.  
Look, the young woman is with child  
and shall bear a son,  
and shall name him Immanuel.  
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**Hymn # 121**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
verses 1, 2, & 4

ST. LOUIS

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

We give thanks, Lord, that you are unchanging  
that your concern for justice and righteousness was so strong  
that you came in human form to share that concern with us in Emmanuel.

We confess that all too often we hesitate to speak or act  
when we see people being treated unjustly.

Forgive our attitudes when our opinion of others' worth  
is based on how they look  
or what they own  
or how they live or what they think  
rather than accepting them for who they are—people made in your image.  
Remind us, O God, that our hope lies in the promise of your mercy.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Response # 115**

*Away in a Manger*  
verses 1 & 3

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**Moment with Children**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**New Testament Reading**

2 Corinthians 2: 14—3:6

**Sermon**

*“The Smells of Christmas”*

Dr. Al Masters

**Affirmation of Faith**

from the *Confession of 1967*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.  
His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for us  
when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.  
In this experience the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to us,  
moves us to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life does not release us from the conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, fear.  
We still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems.  
Nevertheless, as we mature in love and faithfulness in our life with Christ,  
we live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days,  
confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

The members of the church are emissaries of peace and seek the good of humankind  
in cooperation with powers and authorities in politics, culture, and economics.  
But we have to fight against pretensions and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare.  
Our strength is in our confidence that God’s purpose rather than humankind’s schemes will finally prevail.

Life in Christ is eternal.  
The resurrection of Jesus is God’s sign that he will consummate his work of creation and reconciliation  
beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

**Response**

*Still, Still, Still*  
Resounding Joy Handbell Choir

arr. Moglebust

**Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord’s Prayer**

Hymn # 143

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*  
verses 1, 2, & 4

REGENT SQUARE

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

4 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!

### Charge & Benediction

Postlude

*Love Has Come*  
Resounding Joy Handbell Choir

arr. Eithun

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**Welcome to worship on this Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Please indicate your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at [lisaj@fpcgreer.org](mailto:lisaj@fpcgreer.org).

**Special thanks to the members of the Resounding Joy Handbell Choir for participating in today's worship:** Diana Babineau, Sara Cobb, Amy Couch, Heidi Edwards, Karen Greene, Deb Kladviko, Charlotte Koehler, Fran Nicholas, Connor & Courtney Proffitt.

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

