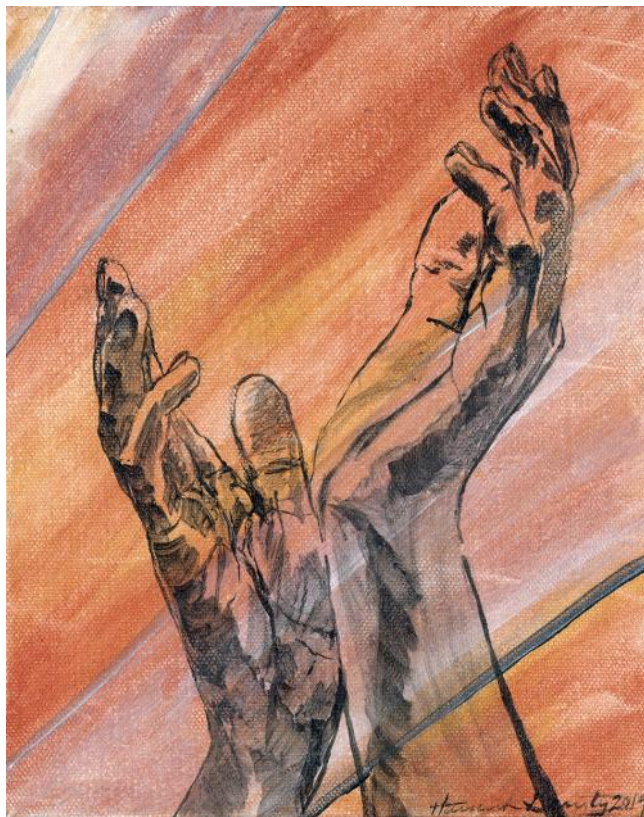


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

8:55 a.m. Worship



100 School Street Greer, SC 29651 ~ (864) 877-3612 ~ [www.fpcgreer.org](http://www.fpcgreer.org)

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:55 a.m.

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude**

*What Child Is This?*

Arr. Rouse

**\*Call to Worship**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 100**

*Canticle of the Turning*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

**Lighting of the Advent Candles—Love**

Rob and Sharon Hughes

**Call to Confession**

**Confession of Sin**

**In honest confession, we submit the record of our frailty to you, O God. We have not trusted that which our senses could not verify. We have not dared to live by your leave nor braved more than we ourselves could accomplish. We have grown accustomed to the darkness and have failed to follow such light as we have been given. We have been traitors to our own best hopes, until aspiration grew weary, and we ceased to believe the truth given us in the gospel. Grant to us, in your mercy, the perception and the pardon which will free us to offer ourselves to you; that Jesus Christ may be born in us, abide with us, and save us from our sins; that the world which still has scant room for its Lord may see something of him in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Carol of Petition # 115**

*Away in a Manger*

MUELLER

*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.*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Carol of Praise # 134**

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**As once more we take upon our lips the Christmas songs and upon our hearts the Christmas truth, let your Word be made flesh again in human life, and Love Incarnate walk the ways of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:39-55

**Sermon**

"A Mother's Song"

Reverend Shelburne

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

from A Declaration of Faith, 1977

**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 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. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*Light of the World*

Daigle/Duncan/Mabury

**\*Carol of Commitment # 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!*

**Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn # 113**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**\*Benediction Response**

*Once in Royal David's City*  
William Shelburne, verse 1; All, verse 4

IRBY

*And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

\*Those who are able may stand

**Welcome to worship on this Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Please record your presence in worship today by signing the fellowship pads located in each pew. If worshipping with us online, please share your presence by emailing Lisa Johnson at [lisaj@fpcgreer.org](mailto:lisaj@fpcgreer.org).

**Today's bulletin cover** comes from the Sanctified Art, LLC website ([sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)). This piece by artist Hannah Garrity is entitled, "A Dance", and is inspired by Luke 1:46-55. It depicts Mary's hands reaching up in prayer and praise.

**Special thanks to** William Shelburne for sharing his musical gifts in worship today.

**It's not too late to contribute to the Joygift offering.** You can make an online donation via the church website ([www.fpcgreer.org](http://www.fpcgreer.org)) or mail your gift to the church office.

**2022 Offering Envelopes** are available for pick up in the hallway near Door A.

**The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** continues to meet weekly as we work to discern who God is calling to serve at FPC Greer. We are very excited to announce that we have a few initial interviews scheduled for January. Please continue to pray for our work and for our church. Gratefully, Graham Cobb, Amy Couch, Ameka Cruz, Caroline Greene, Fred Hyslop, David Orr, Mark Roseveare, and Patty White.

**Copies of These Days and Our Daily Bread** (January—March) are available for pickup at various locations throughout the church.

**Café Justo makes a delicious and meaningful Christmas gift.** We have 1 lb. bags for \$10 and 1/2 lb. bags for \$5 available for purchase. Look for the display table in the fellowship hall gathering area. Thank you for your support of our mission partners and coffee farmers in the Café Justo cooperative.

**Look for the Christmas Card Box in the hallway near Door A.** You may use this to distribute Christmas Cards to and pick up cards from members of the FPC family. Cards not picked up by January 2nd will be recycled.

**Christmas Eve Worship—December 24th**

4:00 p.m.—Live Nativity Service in the Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m.—Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary

**December 26th**

No 8:55 Worship  
No Sunday School  
11:00 a.m.—Worship in the Fellowship Hall

**January 2nd**

No 8:55 Worship  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for All Ages  
11:00 a.m.—Worship with Communion in the Fellowship Hall