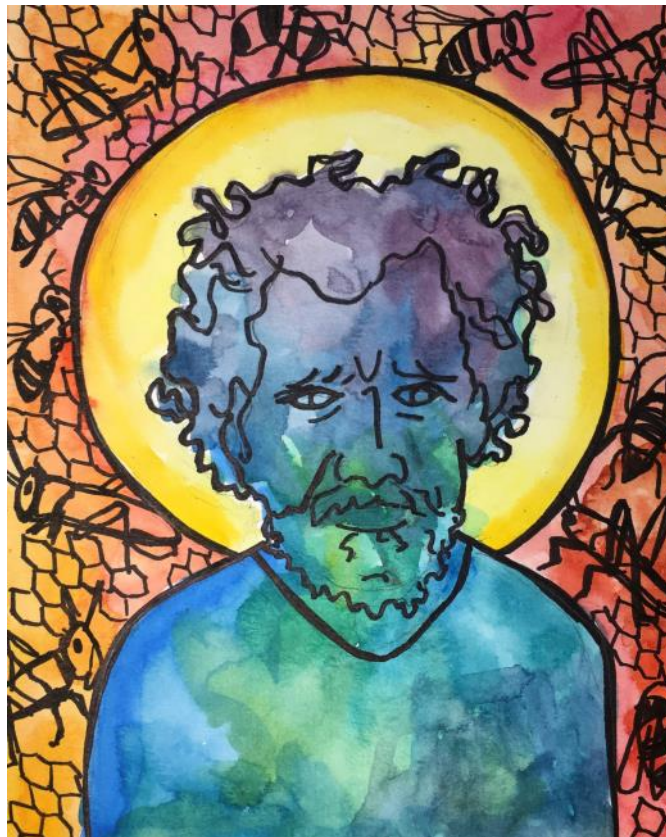


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Greer, South Carolina

11:00 a.m. Worship



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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 5, 2021

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.

Chiming of the Hour—Hymn # 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord*

PREPARE THE WAY

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 85

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Righteousness will go before him,

and will make a path for his steps.

***Hymn # 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Lighting of the Advent Candles—Peace

Deb Kladviko and Bob Wiesner

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin

Almighty and Everlasting God, in this season of your coming we confess that we are a people who walk in darkness. Your love is upon us, yet we are sore afraid. Your mercy upholds us, yet our crooked ways will not be made straight. Your grace takes us in, yet there remains no room in us for you to be born. You who are both our Shepherd and our Savior, enter our bleak mid-winter and make us to hear angel voices from every far country; route us by way of your table toward the stable in Bethlehem. Amen.

Carol of Petition # 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

*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!*

Assurance of Pardon

***Carol of Praise # 110**

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

*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!*

Invitation to the Children

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Congregation, please join on verses 1 & 4 upon cue

Fothergill

*V. 1—Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*V. 4—At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illuminate our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4 Pew Bible, pg. 778

New Testament Reading Matthew 3:1-12 Pew Bible, pg. 784

Sermon "Camel Hair, Locusts, Vipers, and a Happy New Year!" Reverend Shelburne

*Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith, 1991

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Amen.

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* arr. Hayes

*Carol of Commitment # 106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation and Institution

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Communion of the People

Eat the bread individually, symbol of our personal communion with the Lord;

Drink the cup together, symbol of our shared communion with the Lord.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Amen.

Ephesians 4:4-6

Prayer

***Hymn # 96** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* O WALY WALY

***Charge and Benediction**

***Benediction Response** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

***Postlude** *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Pachelbel

*Those who are able may stand.

Welcome to worship on this Second 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.

Today's bulletin artwork by Rebekah Krevens is entitled, "John, Locust, & Wild Honey" and is used with permission.

Handbell Roadies needed after worship today. Your help is appreciated to move bell tables and equipment into the sanctuary. Meet Lisa at the communion table following worship.

A reminder that it's not too late to turn in your 2022 pledge card. You can email your pledge amount to Lynn Bennett at lynnb@fpcgreer.org or mail your pledge card to the church office.

Advent Devotional Booklets are here—this year's Advent devotional booklet, *Close to Home*, is from A Sanctified Art. Copies are available at various locations throughout the church.

F3 (Faith, Fellowship & Fun) for our 3rd-5th graders is TODAY in the Fellowship Hall following 11 am worship. Come celebrate Christmas together by having lunch and then watching *The Star*, a Christian family film about the Nativity of Jesus, told through the eyes of a donkey and other animals.

Our Children's Christmas Nativity Play will be presented on Sunday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Join Us for Joygift—A Christmas Music Celebration on Sunday, December 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A nursery is provided. The Candlelight Joygift Service has been a tradition at First Presbyterian for over 70 years. What once began as a means to collect a special offering for retired Presbyterian ministers has grown into a music and candle lighting service that tells the sacred story of Jesus' birth. Please join us and bring a friend!

Service of Healing and Wholeness: December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary—this service of remembrance and hope is not only for those who are grieving but for all of us who know we are called to grieve together. This quiet worship for a holy season will include scripture and music that reminds us of the comfort God offers during dark times. Everyone is welcome. We encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we offer prayers and light candles to remind us that God's Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Look for the Christmas Card Box in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall gathering area. You may use this to distribute Christmas cards to and pick up cards from members of the FPC family.