

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“Emmanuel,” God with us. What a glorious gift! The words of the prophet are fulfilled in the birth of a child. What is conceived of the Holy Spirit and carried in Mary’s womb is the promise of eternal life to all that believe. Jesus will save God’s people from their sins; God will dwell in their midst. The Spirit makes God’s presence known now and forevermore.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please turn to your neighbor and exchange the greeting of peace.

* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CALL TO WORSHIP TIM AND LAURA MAHER

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

The lights that we have kindled each week light the way to the coming Christ.

We relight the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy.

Today we light the candle of Love. The coming Lord is forever faithful. The never-ending affection and tenderness the Christ has for us is a gift that is unequalled.

Praising the God who cares so deeply for all creation, we light this candle. Together, we will demonstrate and share the love of Christ.

All Earth Is Waiting

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,

And open furrows await the seed of God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;

It cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:

“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”

one whose name is “God-with-us” our Savior shall be;

with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;

Open new highways, new highways for the Lord.

He is now coming closer, so come all and see,

And open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;

Yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,

For he lives in all Christians and is with us now;

Again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

God comes, so we might believe, so we might be blessed.

Our hearts leap for joy! For God is coming to us in a child.

God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.

Holy is the One who comes in God's name, who fulfills every promise of God.

God comes to walk with those who follow in faith, to bring peace to a shattered world.

WE PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

* **HYMN OF PRAISE #8** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

PRAYERS OF THE DAY

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the Birth, with the Hope that walked among us, with the Grace which is always with us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)* GLORIA
Glo ----- ri-a in excelsis Deo;
Glo ----- ri-a in excelsis Deo;

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

*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.*

THE WORD SPOKEN

In the beginning was the Word

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Epistle Lesson – Romans 1:1-7 PEW BIBLE, NT, PAGE 152

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 1:18-25 PEW BIBLE, NT, PAGE 1

For the Word of God in Scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us;

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD IN MUSIC

ANTHEM *Sing of Mary* RAQUEL

THE WORD PROCLAIMED: “WHEN GABRIEL APPEARS” BILL HAMILTON

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #16** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* GABRIEL’S MESSAGE

***APOSTLE’S CREED** (Traditional) PAGE 14

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS, TITHES, AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

* **DOXOLOGY** (WITH ALLELUIAS) LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE GO IN GOD’S NAME

* **CLOSING HYMN # 19** *To A Maid Engaged to Joseph* ANNUNCIATION

* **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

* **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *May the Peace of God* LARSON

* **POSTLUDE**

** You are invited to stand if you are able*

WELCOME TO FAITH PRESBYTERIAN

WELCOME to Faith Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a member or a visitor we are so glad that you are worshipping with us this morning and pray that this time of worship will be both renewing and rewarding for you. If you have an interest in joining Faith Presbyterian, please speak to the pastor or call the church at 336.292.5704. Please visit our website at www.faithpresgso.org or Facebook at www.facebook.com/faithpresgso.

Elders of the Month for December are Betty Rissmiller and Betsy Rule.

Leading the Advent Candle Liturgy for this morning are Laura and Tim Maher.

On the calendar for this week:

- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be the 24th, at 6:00. Please join us for this meaningful service as we celebrate the birth of our Lord!
- **Adult Sunday School.** Join us each Sunday morning at one of our two adult classes. The Discussion Class meets at 9:30 in the parlor for engaging conversation and discussion as we continue our Advent Study "**Held in God's Grace**". Also, you may want to attend our other adult class, **The Present Word**, which meets in the library. Using our denomination's curriculum, this class considers scripture and its interpretation for today.
- The **Christmas Joy Gift Offering** will be received today. This offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, where students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions.
- There are Sign-Up Sheets in the Narthex for Ushers, Flowers and Snacks for each Sunday. Please take a turn and sign up.
- This is the last day for the "In Memorial and In Honor Of" donations. On Christmas Eve and on the 29th, the listings will be available.

The Church Office will be closed on Christmas Day and the Day after Christmas.

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LISTS

Statistics for December 15, 2013: Attendance—54

December 22-29, 2013

Today:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee And Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship
Tuesday:	9:30 A.M.	Parish Nurse
	6:00 P.M.	Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday:		Christmas Day
Sunday:	9:30 A.M.	Sunday School
	10:30 A.M.	Coffee And Conversation
	11:00 A.M.	Worship

Prayer Lists

Sedgefield Church, Greensboro
Grace Church, Winston-Salem

Faith Presbyterian Church Prayer List:

Peggy Pope	Cile Gorman
Dot Patat's Family	Maxine Heath
Fran Cuthbertson	Larry Murren
Pat Magnuson	Virginia Cornet
Erich Bordne	PNC
Bonnie Evans	Ann Huffine
Melissa Burris' Father	Priscilla Christiansen
Dellaine Risley	Georgia Renfrow
Bob Phillips	Kelly Bottoms (Friend/Lindsey Brown)
Ed Price	Bill Shannon
Doris Claybrook (Betsy Rule's Mother)	Andy Moye
Dee McGhee	Bob Huffine's Family



Fourth Sunday of Advent



*We are a loving faith family,
worshipping and serving God,
and testifying in word and deed
as disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Pastoral Team

Bill Hamilton, Interim Pastor
Jim Rissmiller, Pastoral Visitor
Libby Inman, Young Adult Ministries
Jeremy Corn, Music Director
Lois Bazhaw, RN, Congregational Nurse
Lynn Wright, Office Administrator

December 22, 2013
11:00 a.m.

Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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6309 W. Friendly Ave. ♦ Greensboro, North Carolina 27410 ♦ 336.292.5704