

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* WACHET AUF  
*Savior of the Nations, Come* Paul Manz

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Raines and Hudson Families

Christians around the world begin this day to await the Advent of Christ. We join with a joyous and hopeful throng in lighting the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

#### **We gather as a people of hope.**

Christian people around the world stand today in breathless anticipation of a miracle that has been repeated for hundreds of years, yet that astounds us anew each year.

#### **Our hope springs anew from an ancient vision.**

As we light the first Advent candle, let it stand for hope based not on wishful thinking, but on deep conviction. We believe, we have seen, we have received the Promise and the Great Gift, and therefore, in the midst of darkness and imperfection, we hope.

**We gather expectantly, joyfully, and with deep commitment, for we have heard that a special Child is to come, that God is to be among us, and that soon we will see a new creation on earth. We are a people of hope.**

May this candle of hope give light to the world.

Listen to the words of the prophet Jeremiah chapter 31:31-34...

I now light the candle of prophecy and hope.

INTROIT *Lighting of the Advent Candle* Biery  
Sanctuary Choir

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2 HYFRYDOL  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

\* PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

\* THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Lord will give you a sign. Listen, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, that is, "God with us."

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

*All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for*

*Children. Afterward children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:5-23

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE PICARDY

Hymn 5, stanza 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.**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:57-80

SERMON William B. Wade, Jr.

*Breaking the Silence*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ST. LOUIS

Hymn 44, stanza 3

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessing of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY Gordon Young

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

\* DOXOLOGY Hymn 592

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of grace and mercy, as we celebrate the Savior's birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your words. Keep us steadfast in hope, and faithful in service, that we may receive his presence and proclaim the good news of his reign; for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## SEALING OF THE WORD

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

They will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at table in the Kingdom of heaven.

This is the Lord's table. All who trust in him are invited to come.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

ANTHEM *An Advent Prayer* Pote

Sanctuary Choir

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

*Elders will invite us to come forward by rows to the two stations where we will receive the elements of communion.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER p.16, front of hymnal

## BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\* HYMN 8 TRURO

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

\* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\* CHORAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

*Sanctuary Choir*

\* POSTLUDE Paul Manz

*Postlude on NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND*

### WORSHIP NOTES

- \* Please stand, if you are able.
- \* The Rev. Louly Fowler Hay and Dan Walden are assisting in the leading of worship this morning.
- \* Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn off cell phones** during the service.

## Presbyterian 101

Have you ever wondered....

- What do I have to believe to be a Presbyterian?
- What does it mean to be a member of the church?
- Does God have a plan for us? How detailed is it?
- Why do we baptize our children?
- Where did Presbyterians come from? Where are we going?
- How connected are we to other churches?

Let us help you find some answers to your questions. Join us for the remainder of a 4-week study on our Presbyterian faith and practice, during the regular church school hour (10:00-10:45 a.m.), each Sunday morning through Sunday, December 4. We will meet in the Martin Fellowship Hall.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Bennett Stillerman—recovering from surgery (grandson of Carol and David Stillerman)  
 †Chris Weesner—home  
 †Patrick Carmichael—home  
 †Jack Yoder—home  
 †Joyce Ashworth's sister—fall/hip surgery  
 †Julie Monroe—complications from heart transplant (friend of Courtney & Eric Henderson)  
 †Emory Bowen—Emory Hospital (brother-in-law of Debbie Gossage)  
 †Marvin Paige—cancer (Perri Walden's uncle)  
 †JoEllyn Kimball—complications of lung transplant  
 †Corky Krupp—cancer (Warren Liem's cousin)  
 †Courtney LeCroix Hoover—waiting for double lung transplant, Florida  
 †Shirley Smith, needs kidney transplant (Clarence Price's sister)

### Covington Square

†Rita Harrell  
 †Joy Knight

### Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:

†Sarah Chesnut--Covington Manor

†Mary Cline -Azalea Gardens, Conyers  
 †Margie Rutherford -Rockdale Health Care Center  
 †Russ Cole—Azalea Gardens  
 †Gretchen Buendia - Parkwood Rehabilitation Center, Snellville  
**Benton House**  
 †Helen and George Stamps  
 †Mary Crudup  
 †Doris Mote

### Military:

†Savannah Cannon  
 †Mike Laib  
 †John Rossi  
 †Renee Boston

*We congratulate Rainey Loftin on her spelling bee win at Flint Hill School. Rainey is the daughter of Ricky and Shawn Loftin and the granddaughter of Dennis and Judy Hooten.*

*We celebrate with George and Helen Stamps who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on November 24th.*

**Hospital Visitor:**  
 Louly Hay

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Make your reservation for Mid-Week Feast by using the forms in the pew rack.** Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for meals. This week's menu is: barbeque ribs, fried chicken, baked beans, cole slaw & rolls. Bring a dessert and join us!

**The Wednesday Night Study Group** meets at 6:45 p.m. following the Mid-Week Feast in the Youth Lounge. We are currently studying the Old Testament.

**Food Pantry Needs for December:** Boxed Meals-these include meat and serve 3 or 4 people (Campbell, Banquet, Walmart prices are best).

## THIS WEEK AT FPC

### Sunday, November 27

9:00 Handbell Rehearsal  
 9:30 Children's Choir  
 9:45 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 2:30 Youth Connection Hosts Party at the Garden of Gethsemane Shelter.

### Tuesday, November 29

4:00 Exercise Class

**Commitment Cards** are available in the narthex if you have not already turned yours in. Thanks!

### Wednesday, November 30

4:00 Adventure Club  
 6:00 Mid-week Feast  
 6:45 Sanctuary Choir  
 6:45 Study Group

### Thursday, December 1

10:30 Ambassador Choir

### Sunday, December 4

9:00 Handbell Rehearsal  
 9:30 Children's Choir  
 9:45 Sunday School  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 5:00 Youth Connection

## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to one of the pastors as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

E-mail: Billy Wade: [wbwade@bellsouth.net](mailto:wbwade@bellsouth.net)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office: [penihaug@bellsouth.net](mailto:penihaug@bellsouth.net)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org)

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### December Meeting Schedule— Christmas Celebrations

Circle I Tuesday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. at the home of Joyce Ashworth, 770-464-0627

Circle II - Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Kathryn Wallace, 770-786-2236; meet at the church at 9:30 to carpool

Circle III - Tuesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Barbara Johnson, 770-786-7792

Circle IV - Thursday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Lounge at FPC

Circle VI— Tuesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., home of Margaret Hughes, 770-787-0797; meet at the church at 6:15 to carpool.

All women of the church are invited to attend the circle of their choice. Please call the hostess to let her know you plan to attend.

## THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

### Caring for Our Youngest Members in the Nursery:

Garvin Family  
 Moss Family

### Next week:

Hawley Family  
 Bates Family

### Hosts:

Lynn and Jonathan Paschal

### Ushers:

John, Terri & Jake McCarthy  
 Trista Hooten-Young

### Sound System:

Ken Walker

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

### Class of 2011

Jean Blair  
 Carol Dunbar  
 Rick Gunter  
 Jay Lanners  
 Donna Weesner

### Class of 2012

Bernice Bailey  
 Rebecca Bates  
 Mac Cranford  
 Judy Hooten  
 Day Kennon

### Class of 2013

Patrick Carmichael  
 Judy Davis  
 Denny Dobbs  
 Aubrey Evans  
 Dave Gregory

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.  
 Louly Fowler Hay

Pastor

Parish Associate

Dan Walden

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

Peni Haug

Secretary-Treasurer

Alan Bunn

Music Director

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO

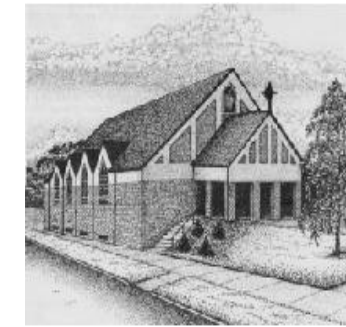
Organist/Ambassador Choir

Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato

Nursery

Krissy Jones

Director of the Early Learning Center



## First Presbyterian Church

Covington, Georgia

November 27, 2011

First Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

Gracie Kate



The artwork is by Adventure Club Artists of FPC. We thank them for sharing their gifts with us.

laurel