

First Presbyterian Church

Founded
July 16, 1788

Organized
September 7, 1800



Winchester, Virginia

540-662-3824

fpcwinc.org

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINCHESTER

2nd Sunday of Advent • December 8, 2024 11:00 AM

When this symbol (⌄) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Ushers collect blue prayer requests during the first hymn.

Worship Leaders Rev. Michael Hafele Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE Women's Faith Study

Reader One: The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

Congregation: In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

Reader Two: We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

PRELUDE

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Camil Van Hulse

CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

God's salvation has come and even now it is on its way.

**Blessed is the Lord God,
who has come to save us! Hallelujah!**

⌄ **HYMN 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

⌄ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the wilderness, you have always sent your prophets to lead us to repentance, to make a way for your salvation to arrive. Help us this day to receive your presence, removing every hindrance and obstacle to your Spirit's work. Make your salvation known from every segment of our lives to every corner of this earth. Amen. *Silence for personal confession*

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS
GLORIA PATRI [Hymn 581]

God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song

✠ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.

Children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One's Worship in Room 107.

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" Casey Joiner, soloist

Air for alto from Handel's *Messiah*

SCRIPTURE *Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 3:1-6*

SERMON "All Means All" by the Rev. Michael Hafele

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The People of God Respond in Faith

✠ **HYMN 106**

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... 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.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. Just as we present our words in liturgy, song, and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"An Advent Garden"

The Chancel Choir

arr. Martin Tune "Brother James' Air"

✠ **THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✠ **HYMN 384**

“Soon and Very Soon”

SOON AND VERY SOON

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

“An Advent Garden” reprise

POSTLUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Paul Manz

USHERS

David Baxa, Richard Creasey, Dana Carlton

Office Announcements

- If you’ve recently made or plan to make a stock transfer or IRA distribution, please notify Jennifer in the church office to ensure your gift is credited accurately.
- Offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Hall on the table below the name tags.
- If you haven’t turned in your pledge card yet, please do so soon. Extras are available in the pews and common areas.
- 2024 offerings need to be dropped off at the church office by December 31 at noon or postmarked by December 31 in order to be included in your ’24 Tax Statements.
- All 2024 expense reimbursements must be submitted to the office by Friday, January 3.

Advent Adult Sunday School

Join Rev. Michael in Loudoun Hall at 9:45 am during Advent for reflections on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, guided by *God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*.

Helper Fund Christmas Concert Today!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 3 PM for the Helper Fund Benefit Christmas Jazz Concert! Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online or at the door. Don’t miss the Famous Turner Ham Sandwiches at the refreshments table—perfect for enjoying during the concert or taking to go after worship!

Chancel Choir Advent Presentations

During Advent this year our Chancel Choir will be singing selections from Tapestry of Light, A Celtic Christmas Celebration. The texts for most of the selections will be very similar to the ones we sing, but the tunes are traditional ones from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. The gifted composer, Joseph M. Martin, has arranged these marvelously to focus on the Christ child, the Light of the world.

CM Christmas Eve

Children's Christmas Eve Service at 4pm, 12/24: Sign up to participate here: <http://bit.ly/cmchristmaseve>. Everyone is invited to this family-friendly service!

Bright Futures Christmas Gifts

A heartfelt thanks to the congregation for donating to the Christmas Angel Tree, blessing children with toys, clothes, and more. Special thanks to Amy Bowman, the Adult Sunday School class, and the office for organizing. Through Bright Futures, FPC sponsored 15 students in 5 families, bringing extra joy to their holidays!

Women’s Connection Dinner

Join us for an evening of fellowship and connection! Please RSVP—whether you're joining us for dinner or just the gathering—by emailing amanda@fpcwinc.org. We look forward to seeing you!