

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2010**  
**The season of anticipation until Christmas Day**

**PRELUDE** "Still, Still, Still" Traditional Austrian Text  
for Salzburg Melody Circa. 1819

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP** "One Candle Is Lit"

**THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

Russ & Pat Favorite

Leader: Our first Advent Candle is the candle of Hope.  
**People: It reminds us that there is an end, a beautiful ending toward which God is pulling us.**

Leader: Our second Advent Candle is the candle of Peace.  
**People: It reminds us that Christ is the Prince of Peace and we are to follow His example.**

Leader: Our third Advent candle is the candle of Joy.  
**People: It reminds us that Christ is a sign of Joy we experience in God's presence.**

Leader: Our fourth Advent Candle is the candle of Love.  
**People: It reminds us that God deeply loves us just as we are.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of Hope, the candle of Peace, the candle of Joy, and the candle of Love.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Chalice Hymnal No. 148

**\*INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespas) and GLORIA PATRI**  
(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews) Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

**CHILDREN'S BLESSING** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer  
Children who are rising four years old through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder. (An experiential worship experience for children which meets in our library).

**HOLY BAPTISM** Rev. Edd Spencer

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES and OFFERINGS**  
**Dedication of Commitments** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer  
**Special Music Offering** "It Was a Silent Night" Ekul Eelyak  
**\*Doxology**  
**\*Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

**ANTHEM** "One Small Child" Meece

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**  
**Communion Hymn** "The First Noel" Chalice Hymnal No.151  
Vs. 1,2,3,& 5

**Invitation to Communion** Jim Baxter  
**Prayer of Communion** Joye Taylor  
(This is the Lord's Table. All believers in Christ are invited. As the emblems are passed, partake of the bread and hold the cup, offering your own prayer/meditation until after the congregational response.)

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**  
(Taken from the New Testament: First Corinthians 11:23-26)

**ELDER:** The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is My Body which is given for you."

**COMMUNION MUSIC** "I Wonder as I Wander" Nerak

**ELDER:** In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant of My Blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

**CONGREGATION:** As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**SCRIPTURE** Matthew 2: 11-12; John 19: 38-40 Rev. Edd Spencer

**SERMON** "The Gift of - Myrrh" Rev. Edd Spencer

**\*HYMN OF INVITATION** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Chalice Hymnal No. 150

**\*BENEDICTION** Rev. Edd Spencer

**CHORAL RESPONSE** "Come, O Long-expected Jesus" Chalice Hymnal No. 125

Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set Your people free.  
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;  
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.

**\*POSTLUDE** "Emmanuel" Smith

**LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK**

**SUNDAY, December 19**

9:00 am Sunday School  
9:45 – 10:15 am Fellowship Moments  
10:15 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Children's Worship and Wonder  
1:30 pm Comrades Christmas Party at the Hamilton's  
3:00 pm Pastor's Class  
3:30 pm Christmas Play Rehearsal  
5:00 pm Chi Rho/CYF Christmas Party at Ayana Crosby's  
5:00 pm Kool Kids Christmas Party at Stacy Cason's  
5:00 pm Bible Buddies Party at the church

**MONDAY, December 20**

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
6:30 pm Mission Council Christmas Party at Gary Franklin's

**FRIDAY, December 24**

9:00 am Christmas Eve Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

**SATURDAY, December 25**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**NEXT SUNDAY, December 26**

10:15 am College Recognition Sunday

## IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICES** - On Christmas Eve we will have two worship services to celebrate the birth of Christ. The first service is at 7:00 pm. It will be a contemporary service that will be family and child friendly. Our Kids Praise group will share a cute children's Christmas musical entitled "Aaron, The Allergic Shepherd" at the 7:00 pm service. They are excited to be able to present this as the Christmas Eve meditation this year. It tells the story of a little shepherd boy allergic to sheep and the lesson he learned on that special night so long ago when Emmanuel came to dwell among us. The kids are having a fun time getting ready for this Christmas Eve service; so come out and support them as we all worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the eve of His birth. The second service will be a traditional service at 11:00 pm. This service will be more formal with a sermon and will be by candlelight. Both services will have the worshippers walking forward to receive Communion. Also, they will both end with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. The nursery will be open for both services.

### **COLLEGE RECOGNITION SUNDAY - Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Traditionally, the last Sunday in December is set aside as College Recognition Sunday. It is a time that we recognize our college students and invite them to lead us in our worship service. We are blessed to have at First Christian, nineteen college young adults. This year Hannah Harms will share the sermon with other young adults serving as worship leaders. Come on this Sunday after Christmas as our college young adults lead us in the worship of the One born in Bethlehem.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** - We will receive our Christmas outreach offering on Sunday, December 19 and 26. This offering will go to support the ministries of the Regional Church in AI/NW Florida. These ministries include: our youth at summer camps, new churches being formed, CMF and CWF ministries, and the ministry of John Mobley, our Regional Minister. All our gifts for the offering will stay in Alabama and Northwest Florida.

**THE LAST VISITOR OF THE YEAR** - Please remember we will not mail out a Visitor the last week in December, the 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> as per our bulk mail permit. The last Visitor for 2010 will be mailed December 21<sup>st</sup>. *The Church Office*

### **What We Believe**

- *Open Communion.* The Lord's Supper or Communion is celebrated in

weekly worship. It is open to all believers.

- *Baptism by immersion.* In baptism the old self-centered life is set aside and a new life of trust in God is made possible. Although we generally practice baptism by immersion, we honor other baptism traditions as well.
- *Importance of church unity.* All Christians should cooperate in ministry wherever possible, affirming each other as sisters and brothers in Christ.
- *The Ministry of all believers.* Both ministers and lay persons lead worship, direct service opportunities and nurture spiritual growth.
- *Freedom of belief.* We are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS**

*WORSHIP LEADERS:* Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer  
*MUSIC MINISTER:* Rev. Jan Watts  
*ORGANIST/PIANIST:* David Brasher  
*ELDERS ON CALL:* Jim Baxter & Joye Taylor  
*SERVING DIACONATE:* Gary Taylor, Dan Alderson, Conlee Alderson, Linda Byrd, Jose' Carreras, Nick Cotruvo, Paulette Farquhar, Russ Favorite, Bob Lamb, Janice Lamb, Connie Tabb, Art Varvoutis, Regena Varvoutis, Ginny White

*CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:*  
*LESSON:* The Magi Show The Way (Advent IV)  
*STORYTELLERS:* June Pryor  
*GREETERS:* Susan Hales & Pepper Edwards

*SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER:* Jim Thigpen  
*WORSHIP GREETER:* Andrew Ford  
*WORSHIP TABLE GREETER:* Ruth Ann Steele

