

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 18, 2011*

PRELUDE "Ding Dong! Merrily on High!" French Carol

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Andrew Everling & Anna Eady

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Edd Spencer

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "One Candle Is Lit"

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE Lori Morrow & Michelle Bohan Brown

Leader: Our first Advent Candle is the Candle of Wonderful Counselor,

People: It reminds us to have patience in these busy days of Advent as we prepare for Christmas.

Leader: Our second Advent Candle is the Candle of the Mighty God,

People: It reminds us that God has come to save us in Christ, the Lord and Savior of the world.

Leader: Our third Advent Candle is the Candle of Everlasting Father,

People: It reminds us of God's eternal love for His children.

Leader: Today we light the Candle of Prince of Peace.

People: For a child has been born for us, who shall be called Prince of Peace.

He is the greatest peacemaker who ever lived. The Prince of Peace works for reconciliation and not division.

Leader: Today we light the Candles of Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Red Hymnal No. 677

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

CHILDREN'S BLESSING Rev. Edd Spencer
Children who are rising four years old through fourth grade will be dismissed to Children's Worship & Wonder.

HOLY BAPTISM Rev. Edd Spencer

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, and CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Call to Stewardship Rev. Edd Spencer
Trio: Steve Pasky, Lead, Gary Franklin, Baritone, David Hamilton, Bass

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Edd Spencer

ANTHEM "I Wonder as I Wander" Lori Morrow, Soprano

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Edd Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Red Hymnal No. 145

Invitation to Communion

Hugh Henderson

Prayer of Communion

Earl Strickland

(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 "Love Came Down at Christmas" Traditional Irish Melody/Evans

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 1: 18-23; Luke 1: 29, 2: 8-11 Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

SERMON "Do Not Be Afraid" Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

***HYMN OF INVITATION** "Joy to the World" Red Hymnal No. 143

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHORAL RESPONSE "When God is A Child" Red Hymnal No. 132
Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Chorus

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.

Chorus

What Child Is This
by a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Savior is born.

Special Music Offering

***POSTLUDE** "Emmanuel" Smith

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Sunday School
9:45 – 10:15 am Fellowship Moment
10:15 am Worship Service – Holy Baptism
10:30 am Children’s Worship and Wonder
2:00 pm Bible Buddies Bowling Party
4:30 pm Kool Kids meet at church/Christmas party at the Cason's

MONDAY – TUESDAY

9:30 am – 1:30 pm The Adventure Nook Preschool

MONDAY, December 19

7:00 am Men’s Bible Study
10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Mission Council Party at the Henderson's

TUESDAY, December 20

9:45 am The Adventure Nook Chapel “The Christmas Story”
Santa and Mrs. Claus visit TAN

WEDNESDAY, December 21

12:00 pm Young At Heart at Janet Bond's
5:00 pm Chi Rho & CYF Christmas Party at Elizabeth Miller's

SATURDAY, December 24

7:00 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Communion Service
11:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Communion Service

SUNDAY, December 25

Christmas Sunday

9:00 am Worship Service – Holy Baptism
Christmas Offering & Blessing of the Toys

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people... Luke 2:10. The angels brought good news to the world. Also, like the angels we can bring good news to the world through our Christmas offering. Through our Christmas offering we can bring good news of Christ to our region of Alabama-Northwest Florida. One-hundred percent of this offering will stay in our Region to strengthen the work of Christ. Your generous gift to the Christmas offering will bring good news throughout the coming year. Please share in the offering by using the envelope in your bulletin.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE - Circle your calendar for a Christmas Eve Worship service at First Christian. There will be a Contemporary Worship Service at 7:00 pm. The nursery will be open for this service. There is also a traditional service at 11:00 pm.

SPREAD THE LIGHT - Our CYF youth will once again accept your donations of \$5.00 or more in honor or memory of a loved one. These donations will help the youth to *Spread the Light* of Christ on their Mission Trip - which this year will be an immersion Mission trip to Lexington, Kentucky to the inner city. Our youth will be immersed in the culture of the inner city where they will live and work for a week among those they will serve. In addition, the youth have created a special Christmas card – as a gift to you - to share with others, in lieu of a Christmas gift. Often times it is difficult to find that “perfect gift” for our family and friends. However, when you give a gift to the *Spread the Light* project, you will help the youth spread the Light of Christ in the inner city where Jesus reminds us to minister to the least of these. You will be able to send your friends a Christmas card letting them know you have honored them with this special gift. Also, your name and those you have honored will be placed in our Christmas Eve bulletins. As always, thank you for your love and support of our youth.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF - Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent, we will have a decorated Christmas box in the narthex for you to place your gift for the staff of First Christian. Please note on your check that it is a gift for the church staff. You may also mail your gift to the church in care of Steve Pasky. Please remember our staff and all the many extras that they have done for us this year. We are fortunate to have them and appreciate their ministry to us. Today is the last time to share in the offering. *Thank you, Steve Pasky, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

YOUNG AT HEART December 21st at 12:00 pm - Christmas will be here soon and what better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to sing our hearts out, tell stories, and, most of all, have David Brasher at the piano making a joyful noise (music)? You are invited to come and have a good time with the Young at Heart on December 21st at noon. Lunch will begin at 12:00 pm. We will party at the Bonds' house until...nap time, ha! Please sign up and bring a friend and be ready for some Christmas joy. See you in Chelsea. OH yes, Jenny West will be helping with our lunch Yeah! If we need the bus, it will be available to ride to Chelsea. *See you there! Janet*

A BUDGET COMPARISON – A comparison of the 2012 proposed budget with the 2011 budget is available on the table in the narthex. Please take a copy and review the comparisons.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS: *Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer*

MUSIC MINISTER: *Rev. Jan Watts*

ORGANIST/PIANIST: *David Brasher*

ELDERS ON CALL: *Hugh Henderson & Earl Strickland*

SERVING DIACONATE: *Bobby Boyd, Faye Boyd, Clayton Brammer, Charlotte Brammer, CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:*

LESSON: *Christmas - Meeting the Christ Child*

STORYTELLER: *Joye Taylor*

GREETERS: *Sarah Ford & Pepper Edwards*

WORSHIP GREETERS (Door): *Andrew & Sarah Ford*

WORSHIP GREETER (Table): *Virginia Nall*

ADVENT WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

7:00 Contemporary Worship

11:00 Traditional Worship

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Sunday – Holy Baptism

Blessing of The Toys, Christmas Outreach Offering

Worship at 9:00 am

Please note that on Christmas Sunday there will be no Sunday school or Worship and Wonder. Worship will begin at 9:00 am. Don't worry about what you will wear to worship on Christmas Day. Just come casual and put on your clothing of spiritual commitment and join with others on Christmas morning in a celebration of wonder and praise to the One born in Bethlehem.

TIRED OF TURKEY? - Today is the last day that the CYF can take your orders for a delicious Boston Butt. **The delivery date is Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 11:00 am. Please pick-up your order between 11:00 am - 5:00 pm at the church.** You may place your order at the same time you make a donation for Spread the Light. Both fund raisers will support our youth on this coming summer's mission trip to Lexington, Ky. The cost is \$30.00 for a 8-9 lb Boston Butt. As always thank you for your support. Merry Christmas from your CYF youth.

MISSION COUNCIL CHRISTMAS PARTY TOMORROW NIGHT AT 6:30 PM – All Mission Council members are invited to the Mission Council Christmas Party at the Henderson's tomorrow night at 6:30 pm. Please bring with you your favorite heavy hors'doevres dish. Come and help celebrate our ministry together for the past year, and enjoy fellowship and lift up the birth of our Savior.

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH DOORS – Thank God for the people that led you to Jesus or were Jesus to you.