

The Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2009

Prelude "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Thallander

Lighting of The Candles

Welcome & Announcements Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Choir Processional & Congregational Hymnal of Praise

"When God is a Child" Chalice Hymnal No. 132

Call to Worship "Lighting of the Third Advent Candle" Cayla Corbin & Jenny Parkko

Leader: God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.

People: **We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.**

Leader: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

People: **We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.**

Leader: At first there was a frail light of a single candle of hope, daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin,

People: **Then there was a candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

People: **For God so loved the world...**

Leader: For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of Love. And Love was allowed to live on....

People: **We gather, then, in Christian Love;**

Leader: We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season.

Leader: Lighting of the candles of Hope, Peace and Love.

***PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER and GLORIA PATRI**

(Words to the Lord's Prayer, Gloria Patri and Doxology are in the pews)

Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS AND CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Call to Stewardship Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Special Music Offering "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Unfried

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication** 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Hymn "Come, O Long-expected Jesus" Chalice Hymnal No. 125

Invitation to Communion Jim Baxter

Prayer of Communion Janet Bonds

(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 "Worship the King" Pillihp

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: 1 Cor. 2: 7,9; Isaiah 40: 1-5; Luke 9: 43 Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

the Mystery and the Majesty

A Cantata by Joseph M. Martin

Narration: Clarissa Harms

Poetry: Barbara Carpenter

A Christmas Flourish

Georgia Flora, soprano

Twila Tyree, soprano

Steve Pasky, tenor

The Mystery and the Majesty of the Ancient Prophecies

Carol of Longing

Kathy Mann, mezzo-soprano

Gary Franklin, baritone

The Mystery and the Majesty of God's Promises

Advent Jubilation

Chancel Choir

The Mystery and the Majesty of the Annunciation

The Coming Joy

Libby Carpenter, alto

George Dudley, tenor

The Mystery and the Majesty of Immanuel (God with Us)

Upon A Midnight Clear

Wanda Davis, alto

The Mystery and the Majesty of Angelic Acclamation

A Call to Christmas Joy

David Brasher, tenor

Twila Tyree, tenor

Steve Pasky, tenor

The Mystery and the Majesty of the Adoration of the Magi

Journey to Bethlehem

Aneda Chandler, soprano

Barry Storer, tenor

The Mystery and the Majesty of the Incarnation

The Beautiful Impossible

Gary Franklin, baritone

The Mystery and the Majesty of Christmas

A Noel Proclamation

Chancel Choir

Invitation & Benediction

Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

Choir Recessional

Advent Jubilation Reprise

****Postlude***

Excerpts from "The Mystery and the Majesty"

****Those who are able, please stand.***

CHOIR MEMBERS

1st Row Left to Right:

John Tabb, Hugh Henderson, Edd Spencer, Emily Jackson, Judy Dudley, Libby Carpenter, Olivia Wurner.

2nd Row Left to Right:

David Hamilton, Jim Langley, Don Wurner, Gary Franklin, Mack Carpenter, Lucille Leaman, Andea Chandler, Twila Tyree, Kathy Mann, Wanda Davis.

3rd Row Left to Right:

Steve Pasky, George Dudley, David Brasher, Barry Storer, Susan Storer, Deb Carpenter, Shirley Naylor, Donni Garrison, Georgia Flora, Connie Tabb.

Special Thanks to Sound Technicians Bill Watts and Garry Tyree

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
MUSIC MINISTER: Rev. Jan Watts
ORGANIST/PIANIST: David Brasher
ELDERS ON CALL: Jim Baxter & Janet Bonds
SERVING DIACONATE: Lisa Burdette, Gail Burton, Fletcher & Sandy Hamilton,
Carlton & Tiffany Horne, Scott Jackson, Corey Tabb,
Donnette & Katherine Mee, Rebecca Lange, Ed Powell,
Bob Smith, Charlie & Jacob Thigpen & Leanna Webb
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER: LESSON: The Shepherds Show the Way (Advent III)
STORYTELLER: Julie Henderson
GREETERS: Emily Fowler & Emma Harms
SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER: Jim Thigpen

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 13

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Third Sunday of Advent & Christmas Cantata
10:15 am Children's Worship and Wonder
11:30 am All-Church Christmas Dinner
12:30 pm Ona/Ruth after Dinner
5:30 pm Bible Study on Parables of Luke
5:30 pm Youth Groups
6:45 pm Snack Supper

MONDAY – FRIDAY

9:45 am – 1:30 pm The Adventure Nook
(Our Preschool Ministry)

MONDAY, December 14

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, December 15

9:45 am Chapel

WEDNESDAY, December 16

9:45 am Chapel
6:30 pm Music Department Christmas Party at the Watt's

SATURDAY, December 19

12:00 pm Comrades Christmas Party at the Rudd's

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

SPREAD THE LIGHT

The CYF youth invite you to help them "Spread the Light of Christ" during this Advent season as we prepared to honor the Christ Child. We can each honor the Christ in those we love as well as those who have touched our lives by donating \$5.00 in honor or memory of someone who has shared Christ's light with you. The CYF will be in the narthex today and next Sunday to receive your donations. The names of those you will honor will be placed in both our Christmas Eve bulletins, displayed on the office windows and on our website. Thank you in advance for helping us spread Christ's light.

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 20	Christmas Sunday Christmas Offering
Thursday, Dec. 24	Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion and Baptism Service at 7:00 and Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 pm.
Friday, Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!
Sunday, Dec. 27	College Recognition Sunday – Laura Langley to Preach College Students – Worship leaders

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas offering will be received today and next Sunday. One hundred percent of this offering will support the ministries of the Alabama-Northwest Florida Region. Please use the envelopes in your bulletin for the offering.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We have two Christmas Eve worship services. The one at 7:00 pm will be a Contemporary Service with a baptism. The nursery will be open for this service. The service at 11:00 pm will be Traditional with the service in candlelight.

COMPASSION CORNER

Please stop by the Outreach table Sunday and sign up to help a needy family for Christmas. A working mother of three children lost her job after all "help" lists were full at area agencies. She is managing to pay her rent and gets assistance through food stamps but can't fund the holidays. They need household supplies, Christmas decorations, clothes, toys, food and bedding. Thank you for sharing your blessings. *Sharon and Liz*

COMMITMENT CARDS

Please turn in your commitment cards. Additional cards are in the Narthex in an offering tray.

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.

CHURCH BUS

The youth are serious about their service project for First Christian to purchase a new church bus. They have committed 10% of every dollar they earn this year to go towards a new bus. However they need your help. They are asking for YOU to make a **one time gift** towards a 15 passenger Activity Bus. Ken Horne, our Administrative Mission Chair, has offered to help in this project. If you would like to make a donation please see Ken.

COMPASSION CORNER

Great News! We have adopted a family for Christmas. There is a single mother with 3 children who needs our help. She lost her job right after the major charities closed their lists for Christmas help. Luckily, we got a call from DHR in Shelby County to help out with a power bill and now we have been given the opportunity to do even more! The children are 10, 7 and 4. If you are part of a group in the church and would like to volunteer to sponsor a child, the mother, Christmas dinner, a tree and decorations or perhaps help with utilities, please contact me! I would love to have this project completed by Dec. 1. I will be available for questions and a sign-up list each Sunday, starting Nov. 15th in the narthex after service. Also, on November 29th, Outreach will be asking for another \$5 bill. This goes towards a Global Mission Project. I remind you, if you eat lunch out during the week, have Starbuck's coffee, see a movie or purchase fast food, you could skip just one thing and work together to bring about change in our world! We can reach beyond.....to the ends of the earth!

Blessings, Sharon and Liz...991-7168.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

First Christian is offering many opportunities for learning more about the Word of God and the spiritual life. The following classes are offered to help us all focus on a new insight into God's Word.



Sunday school Adult Classes
On Sunday morning at 9:00 am
Comrades Class
Insighters Class
Seekers Class



Men's Bible Study on the Minor Prophets. 7:00 am Monday Morning



A Study on the book the "Shack"
5:30 pm on Wednesday



A Study on the Parables of Luke
5:30pm on Sunday

Please make a commitment to attend one of these classes.