

PRELUDE "Ukrainian Christmas Carol" Pillihp

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "When God is a Child" Chorale

*** CALL TO WORSHIP "LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE"**
Cayla Corbin and Alyssa Lamb

Leader: Joy to the world.

People: Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

Leader: We have lit the candle of Hope, of Peace, and of Love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy.

People: Today we light the candle of Joy. Let us join heaven and nature and sing to the glory of God.

Leader: Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us joy in a world of despair.

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Chalice Hymnal No. 144

***INVOCATION 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

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.

DEDICATION OF Dominic Luke Mirabito Rev. Edd Spencer

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS & CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Call to Stewardship Rev. Mary Pat Spencer
Special Music Offering "Sing We Now of Christmas" Pillihp
***Doxology**
***Prayer of Dedication** Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

ANTHEM "Breath of Heaven"
Kathy Mann, mezzo-soprano

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
Communion Hymn "Away in a Manger" Chalice Hymnal No. 147
Invitation to Communion Bud Flora
Prayer of Communion Georgia Flora
(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 "Salzburg Melody" 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 Isaiah 9: 2; 6-8 (Page 1072-1073) Rev. Edd Spencer
Isaiah 11: 1-10 (Page 1076-1077)

SERMON "A Little Stump" Rev. Edd Spencer

*** HYMN OF INVITATION** "The First Noel" Chalice Hymnal No. 151

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Edd Spencer

CHORAL RESPONSE "There's a Song in the Air!" Chalice Hymnal No. 159
Vs. 1 & 2

***POSTLUDE** "Emmanuel" Smith

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

LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, December 20

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Offering
10:15 am Children's Worship and Wonder
2:00 pm Children Group to McWane Center
5:30 pm Bible Study on Parables of Luke and Christmas Dinner
5:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party at the Spencer's

MONDAY, December 21

7:00 am Men's Bible Study Christmas Breakfast at
International House of Pancakes
10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Mission Council Christmas Party at the Carpenter's

THURSDAY, December 24

7:00 pm Contemporary Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion & Baptism Service – nursery available
11:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service

NEXT SUNDAY, December 27

10:00 am Worship Service – College Recognition Sunday
Laura Langley will be sharing the Word
College Students as Worship Leaders



IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

COLLEGE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

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 here at First Christian with young adults who have volunteered and agreed to lead us in worship on this special Sunday. We are looking forward to hearing Laura Langley, who will bring us the morning message. Also, college young adults will serve as worship leaders. They are Megan Alderson, Collins Henderson, Joel Carpenter, Hannah Harms, Sarah Alderson, and Kelsey Andrich

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS

Many of you share end of the year blessings with the church. Maybe the Lord has blessed you with abundance and you would like to share a portion of it with His church. You may contact CeCe with your gift of stock, real estate, or other financial blessings. Thank you for all you do for the church.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

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. This service will include the song, "Come On Ring Those Bells", and everyone is encouraged to bring your favorite bell to church to ring in honor of the Lord's birthday. The service will also have a children's moment, Holy Baptism, an upbeat anthem by the choir, "Advent Jubilation", and a dialogue drama sermon by Edd & Mary Pat. The nursery will be open.

The second service will be a Traditional service at 11:00 pm. This service will be more formal and will be by candlelight. The only light in the sanctuary will be the Christmas Tree and candles. This service will consist of a solo of "O Holy Night", by Jan, along with a sermon by Edd.

Both services will have the worshippers walking forward to receive communion. Also, they will both end with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Invite a friend to one of these special services. They will be a blessing as we prepare for Christmas morning.

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 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS

WORSHIP LEADERS:

Rev. Edd Spencer & Rev. Mary Pat Spencer

MUSIC MINISTER:

Rev. Jan Watts

ORGANIST/PIANIST:

David Brasher

ELDERS ON CALL:

Bud & Georgia Flora

SERVING DIACONATE:

*Lisa Burdette, Gail Burton, Fletcher & Sandy Hamilton,
Carlton & Tiffany Horne, Scott Jackson, Donnette &
Katherine Mee, Rebecca Lange, Ed Powell, Bob Smith,
Corey Tabb, Charlie & Jacob Thigpen*

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP & WONDER:

LESSON: The Magi Show the Way (Advent IV)

STORYTELLER: Joye Taylor

GREETERS: Emily Fowler & Susan Hales

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETER: Jim Thigpen

ADVENT WORSHIP

Sunday, Dec. 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent 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 as Worship Leaders

OH COME ALL YOU FAITHFUL 2009 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas offering will be received today. One hundred percent of this offering will go to support the ministries of the AL/NW Florida region. Please share generously.

BELIEVE IN MIRACLES!

Thanks to several Christmas angels, a dream that the youth had back in August has become a reality. The dream was to have a new church bus, one that was safe. Today, that dream is sitting in our church parking lot and you are invited to visit our new bus immediately after church. We are extremely grateful for all the donations that have made this gift possible. If anyone else would like to contribute, a permanent bus fund has been established to cover maintenance. Many thanks again to God's special angels.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE STAFF

Christmas time is the time for gifts of appreciation and love. During the season of Advent we 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 Conlee Alderson. 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. *Thank you, Conlee Alderson, Chair of the Personnel Committee*

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.