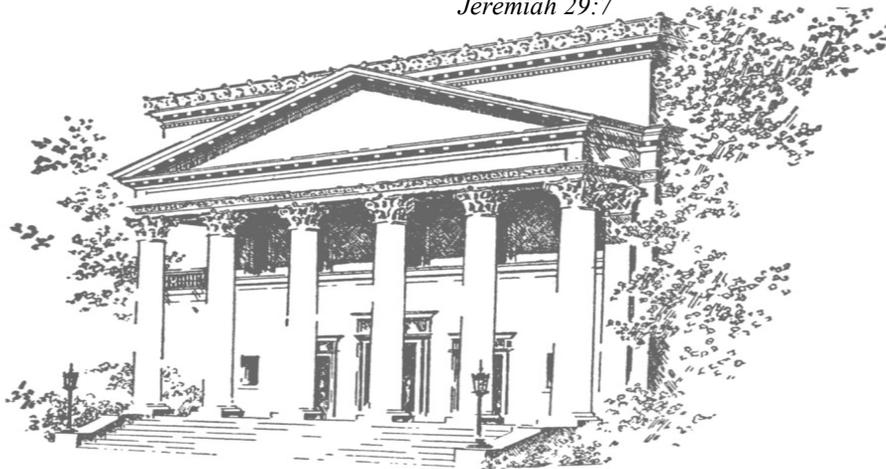


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

Jeremiah 29:7



First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304/343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastor:
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers:
All members of the congregation

The Worship of Our Lord

Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information for contact tracing and to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures and reflection are provided for silent Meditation during the Prelude

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.
Paul Gerhardt

* indicates congregation standing, as able

PRELUDE An Advent Prayer Louise E. Stairs

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

*CALL TO WORSHIP Terry Potesta

One: A voice cries, "prepare the way of the Lord."
All: **Lift every valley; lift every voice.**
One: Prepare the way of the Lord.
All: **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Potesta Family

One: A voice cries out: "Comfort, O comfort my people." A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel." Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

One: As we light our second Advent candle,
All: we pray for the holy peace of God.
One: Come now, O Child of Mary
All: Come now, O Prince of Peace.

*HYMN OF PRAISE #87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Pastor Myers

One: In Jesus Christ God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin.
All: With humility and hope let us make our confession.

Cleansing God,
We hear the call to repentance,
But we struggle to respond.
A voice tells us to turn around,
But we prefer our own ways.
You seek to purify us in love,
But we constantly elude your searching hand.
Our sin leads us in other directions,
Away from you, away from life.
Look with mercy upon us.
Clear a place within us so that something new might be born,
Something that might return us
To the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

(Silence is kept for personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is the good news!
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #347

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vs. 2)

PICARDY

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4 & Luke 1:68-79 (Pages 889 & 58)

Terry Potesta

One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Blest Be the God of Israel Hal H. Hopson, Michael Perry
*Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.*

*God from the house of David a child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.*

*On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:1-6 (Page 60)

Terry Potesta

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

(Children in grades 1-5 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)

SERMON

"A Cry of Hope!"

Pastor Myers

*HYMN #96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—paraphrased from the Confession of 1967 - PC(USA)

Terry Potesta

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory

Piece No. 61

Pastor Myers
Eugene Gigout

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Insert)

Pastor Myers

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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 Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion (Unison)

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*HYMN #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

POSTLUDE

Morceau No. 41

J.L. Battmann

