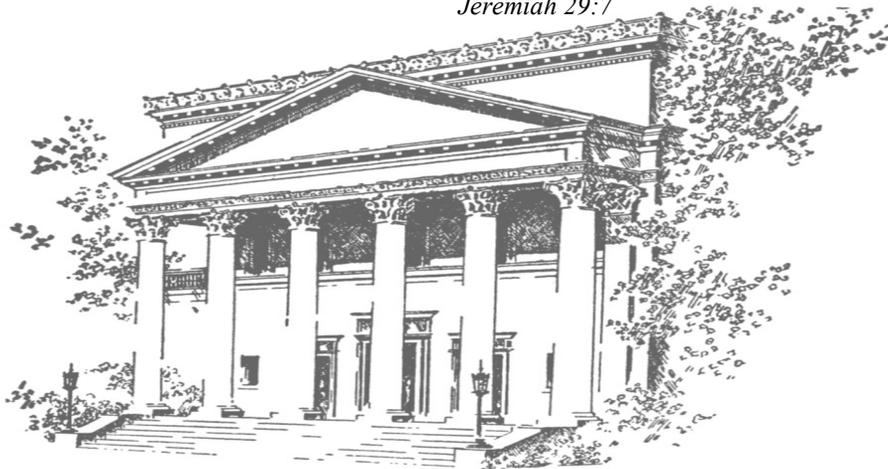


Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...  
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

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

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022  
10:30 AM

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 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.

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found. Far as the curse is found.  
Far as the curse is found. Far as the curse is found.  
Isaac Watts

\* indicates congregation standing, as able

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

#### PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE An Advent Prayer Louise E. Stairs

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

#### PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Suzanne Persinger

One: Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.  
All: The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.  
One: Sorrow and sighing will flee:  
All: let us come into God's presence with singing!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Persinger Family

One: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice." The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice." The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice." The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be faithful."

One: As we light our third Advent candle,

All: **we pray for hope, peace, and joy.**

One: Come now, O Child of Mary

All: Come now, O Prince of Joy.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: The life of faith is not only about being faithful to God. It is knowing that God is faithful to us and charges us to be faithful to others.

All: **Trusting that God will never turn away from us, we will tell the truth about our lives.**

Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at  
The wilderness bursting into bloom  
And the hungry being filled with good things.

We may not want  
The powerful to be brought down  
Or the rich to be sent away empty.

We know that sometimes,  
We are the powerful. Sometimes  
We are the rich. Sometimes  
We are the ones with privilege.

Too often,  
We ignore and harm people you would lift up.  
Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us,  
That we may follow your way of life and truth.

*(Silence is kept for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem. There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow. Beloved, we are forgiven!

All: **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vs. 3)

PICARDY

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spread its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanquish as the darkness clears away.*

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT p. 663) & James 5:7-10 (NT p. 231)

Suzanne Persinger

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

An Advent Prayer

Allen Pote

*Come, holy Jesus, come to free us from our sin.*

*Come, holy Jesus, and make us pure within.*

*Inspire each heart with illumined surprise, enkindle a flame anew.*

*Increase our faith and strengthen our lives, show us the joy of living life in you.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11 (NT p. 11)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Pastor Myers  
Elder Courtney Persinger

Davis Harris Titus

*Gerald Morton Titus III (Father) Meredith Moses Titus (Mother)*

SONG OF JOY

One: Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

All: Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

One: Keep me,

All: Keep me,

One: Hide me,

All: Hide me. Keep me, keep me as the apple of the eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of thy wings.

*(Children in ages 4-10 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)*

SERMON

"In God's Good Time"

Pastor Myers

\*HYMN #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 5-7)

VENI EMMANUEL

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

Suzanne Persinger

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humanity. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to people, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's grace.

DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Myers

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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #84 Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 1)

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

*Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you, hear us when we call.*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Pastor Myers

Offertory

Veni Domine (from *First Advent Suite*)

Pietro Yon

\*Offering Response #607

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDRETH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise Christ, all people here below;*

*Praise Holy Spirit evermore;*

*Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*HYMN #105

People, Look East

BESANCON

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Myers

\*POSTLUDE

Festal March

Gregory P. Cohn

*Our worship continues in our service to others.*

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.  
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM  
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

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#### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers  
Suzanne Persinger  
The Persinger Family

#### THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist  
The Sanctuary Choir

#### ALSO SERVING TODAY

**Chiming the Trinity:** David Cottrell  
**Greeters:** Nancy Winefordner, Kim Smith  
Laura Ceperley

**Audio & Video:** Byron Goodew & David Cottrell  
**Custodial Services:** David Feibelman

#### WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every **Sunday Sabbath Day**, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

#### Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist  
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager  
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator  
Margie Myers, Interim Christian Education Director

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool  
Erin Stone, Preschool Office Administrator  
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian  
Steven Barrett, Custodial Services  
Eric White, Custodial Services