



W E L C O M E

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2020

We are an inclusive, mission-minded, Christian congregation where everyone belongs.



WORSHIP LEADER

The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr. (Pastor Dan will be away 12/7-12/13)



ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

BEYOND WALLS, A PLACE FOR ALL

In these unprecedented times, we invite you to make First Presbyterian Church your spiritual home. While we are unable to worship in our interior worship spaces, we are so glad you have found us online, fpcwinc.org/virtual

During this difficult time, please contact us if we can provide assistance and prayer. Our church office's e-mail is info@fpcwinc.org.

Through your donation, we thank you for your generosity so FPC can continue to provide comfort, support, and ministry to all. Donations can be done securely and confidentially online, fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate or by mail, 116 South Loudoun Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601 (*please designate your giving*)

EXPERIENCE FPC ONLINE – YOUR VIRTUAL CHURCH

If viewing this leaflet online, please download and open this document in your device's PDF program. Connect spiritually online at fpcwinc.org/virtual and our prayer community at fpcwinc.org/prayer

VIRTUAL ORGAN CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

There are wonderful Christmas organ concerts happening virtually, connected to the FPC community.

See our latest eNotice for details on how to watch!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

We continue to serve Christ and our neighbors in the heart of Winchester and beyond. Donations of store-bought, boxed Christmas cookies needed (over 500!) for the CCAP Christmas giveaway. Cookies need to be delivered by 12/9. Drop off cookies at the church office on Monday, 12/7. If you are unable to shop, you can donate financially to the church, designate your giving "Cookies". **See the recent eNotice for more details.**

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Are you having trouble connecting or accessing the church online through our website, emails, the worship videos . . . whatever it is, we want to help! Please contact the church office either through e-mail [\[info@fpcwinc.org\]](mailto:info@fpcwinc.org) or leave a message on extension 11. Also, notify us if you know of someone who is in the hospital, rehabilitation, births, and deaths.

LET'S BE FRIENDS

Find us on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram. 116 S. Loudoun St. • Winchester, VA • 22601

540.662.3824 • info@fpcwinc.org • www.fpcwinc.org

There are more announcements and details emailed weekly. Please contact the church office for assistance.

ADVENT 2020 BY THE SEASONAL TEAM

CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING This year, more than ever, we hope Christmas cards can connect us. The Advent team is encouraging you to send cards to someone you don't know in our directory whose last name begins with the same letter of your last name, and to send cards to those living in retirement communities. Join us in spreading Christmas cheer!

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 2020 has been a year of loss and lament. All are welcome to join us in the parking lot on Sunday, December 20th at 5pm for a service of lament, prayer, and remembering.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Join us for an in-person (masked and distanced), parking lot Christmas Eve service at 5pm. We will have music, prayers, safe candle lighting, and hear the Christmas story. And, at NOON we will have available Lessons and Carols worship on all of our online platforms.

IRA/STOCK DONATIONS

If you have recently made a stock transfer or IRA Distribution or are intending to do so, [please notify Jennifer in the church office](#). This will help ensure that we credit your gift accurately.

CHURCH OFFICE AVAILABILITY DURING COVID-19

The Staff continues to work on a hybrid schedule. There will be someone available to take phone calls on *most* Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. If your phone call goes to voicemail, please leave a message so they are aware you have called. If you require building access, please call or email to schedule. After Christmas Day, the church office will be staffed Monday, 12/28 and Thursday, 12/31, from 9am-12:30pm *only* for the holiday break.



VIRTUAL & OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Second Sunday of Advent • December 6, 2020 • 10:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

"Those who DREAM prepare the way . . . BELIEVE in the promise". <https://www.fpcwinc.org/advent>

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God*

PRELUDE "Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland" Pat Byers, organ

J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

All: Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Leader: We light this candle in hope. We light this candle for peace.

LIGHTING OF HOPE AND PEACE CANDLES

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10: *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.*

Leader: Let us pray: Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus", vv. 1-2

HYFRYDOL

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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AN ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do to seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Todd Bowman

SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8

Beginning of Good News

The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah:
*Look, I am sending my messenger before you. He will prepare your way, a voice shouting in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."*

John's preaching

John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins. Everyone in Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went out to the Jordan River and were being baptized by John as they confessed their sins. John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He announced, "One stronger than I am is coming after me. I'm not even worthy to bend over and loosen the strap of his sandals. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON "There Are No Shortcuts" The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.

THANKS *The People of God Respond to God's Word*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... 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.

OFFERTORY

Friends, our giving is one way of saying thank you to God for what God has given us. It's an act of gratitude. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present our words in liturgy and song and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God, our money. May we reflect on what we have been given and respond by giving generously to the work of God through this community.

SONG "Come Jesus, Holy Son of God" Julia and Colin Watts, vocals Handel/Hopson

You can send your offering via USPS [116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester, VA 22601] or you can give electronically using the "Donate" button on our website. If you use the PayPal app, send it to administrator@fpcwinc.org Thank you. [\[https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate\]](https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate)

SENDING *God Blesses Us and Sends Us to Live as God's People in the World*

BENEDICTION

Be people of peace. Let peace live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear. Share peace by listening to all sides of the story. Share peace by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share peace and hope with those you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (Winchester New) Pat Byers, organ John Ferguson