



# W E L C O M E

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2020

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



## WORSHIP LEADER

The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.



## LITURGIST

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](https://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](mailto: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](https://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](https://fpcwinc.org/virtual) and our prayer community at [fpcwinc.org/prayer](https://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!

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

Pick-ups: 1. Come Monday, December 21 between 1:15 pm and 4 pm | 2. Come Wednesday, December 23 between 10 am and 4 pm | 3. Come Monday, December 28 or Thursday, December 31 between 9 am and 12 pm. Residents of Orchard Ridge and Westminster-Canterbury will have theirs dropped off at the main desks. Envelopes not picked up will be mailed after this month.

## 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](mailto:info@fpcwinc.org) • [www.fpcwinc.org](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, by NOON, you can worship virtually our Lessons and Carols service on our online platforms. Christmas Eve offering will benefit FPC's Helper Fund.

## DONATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2020

For a donation to be included in your 2020 Contribution Statement, it must either be received in the church or postmarked by December 31, 2020.

## 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 WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 20, 2020 • 10:00 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINCHESTER

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

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

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** "The Angel Gabriel from Heave Came" Pat Byers, organ

Setting by Kevin Sadowski

## 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.**

## LIGHTING OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE CANDLES

We light this candle in hope. We light this candle for peace. We light this candle in joy. We light this candle with love.

Hear again the Word of the Lord from Zephaniah 3:17:

*The LORD your God . . . will rejoice over you with gladness; God will quiet you with divine love like a child upon the breast. The Lord will exult over you with loud singing.*

Let us pray: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love, teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

**God of promise, God of love, into our darkness come. Amen.**

**HYMN** "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

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**ADVENT PRAYER**

**O God, you broke down the barriers when you crept in beside us. In Jesus, your hands touched all, and touched us. You opened our eyes to see how the hands of the rich were empty, and the hearts of the poor were full. You took the widow's mite and the child's loaves and used them to show us the Kingdom. Here in the company of the neighbor whom we know and the stranger in our midst, and the self from whom we turn, we ask to love as Jesus loved. Make this the place and time, good Lord, when heaven and earth become one, and we in word and flesh know ourselves beloved. Amen.**

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WORD *God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song*

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**CHILDREN'S MOMENT** Todd Bowman

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 1:26-38 *The Birth of Jesus Foretold*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give

to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**SERMON** "God's Favor" The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.

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

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*[...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** "O Gloriosa Domina (O Blessed Virgin)" Pam Keim, soloist Michael Head

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](mailto:administrator@fpcwinc.org) Thank you. [<https://fpcwinc.org/stewardship/donate>]

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

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**BENEDICTION**

Be people of love. Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet. Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community. Share love by loving those you do not know. How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation? Share love by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** "Toccata on 'Gabriel's Message'" Sadowski

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