

First Sunday of Advent and Communion

December 2, 2012

8:30 & 11:00

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

‡ LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this first candle of Advent as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means “coming.” We are preparing ourselves for the days when:

Nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

* HYMN #9 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ who was, and is, and is to come: we bow before you on this First Sunday of Advent to confess our sins. You have told us of your coming to bring all nations together under your gracious rule. We confess that we have prayed for your Kingdom to come, yet we have not prepared for it. We live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, and abuse the earth.

We confess that we do not work for justice and peace, nor do we point others to your saving presence and grace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us a new heart to follow in your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Now hear our silent, personal confessions...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA PATRI Hymn #579

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 40:3-8

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of

the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

ANTHEM (11:00) “Sounds of Advent” arr. Lee Dengler
(from *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* & *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*)

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

Messiah for Young Voices (Dec. 9, 9:45 am, sanctuary)

ORGAN INTERLUDE

(no Children’s Worship today)

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Are You Ready for Christmas?”

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in the clouds’ with great power and glory...So beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* HYMN #139 (verses 1-3) “Come, Thou Almighty King”

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles’ Creed*, pg. 14

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory (11:00) Brett Trent

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He.*

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy ... who forever

Sing to the glory of your name:

“Hosanna in the highest!”

That ancient song we sing,

for Christ is our Redeemer,

the Lord of heaven our King.

O may we ever praise Him

with heart and life and voice,

And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN #13 “Prepare the Way”

* CHARGE

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL RESPONSE

* POSTLUDE

WORSHIP NOTES

Tom Presler (8:30) and Janet Hudson (11:00) are Elders of the Day.

Maggie Brown is the liturgist.

For the Second Sunday of Advent, Pastor Dave’s message will be “Finding the Way Home” from Isaiah 60:1-6.

‡ Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of your pew. Write prayer concerns and/or notes to the church office on pew cards and place in offering plate.

* If you are able, please stand.

Pastor Dave is available for individual meetings with members of the congregation Mon-Fri, 9 am-6 pm, or on Sat. when circumstances require it (email: david.stull.handley@gmail.com)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

Sunday, December 2

2:00 pm **The Advent Craft Fair** will be going on in the fellowship hall. Children's crafts will be at no cost. There will be 2 adult crafts which will be priced at cost. Santa will be stopping by to have pictures taken with the kids and snacks will be served. Samples of crafts are displayed on the table outside the church office. The Fair ends at 4 pm.

1:45 pm **Middle School & Senior High Youth Groups** will help with the Craft Fair and 4-6:00 pm meet @ AOC.

Monday, December 3

7:00 am **Men's Breakfast** at Shoney's on the corner of Kraft and N. 2nd Street – all men, all ages are invited!

10:30 am **Deborah Circle** meets in the Explorers Classroom. Childcare is provided.

11:30 am **PW Board** meets.

12:30 pm **PW Luncheon** in the fellowship hall - a representative from C.D.E. will join us and give money-saving tips on "Ways to Save Electricity in Your Home."

5:00 pm **Theology on Tap** at the Guadalajara Grill, 1068 Riverside Drive. Join us for lively discussions.

Tuesday, December 4

5:30 pm **Yoga class** in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday, December 5

9-9:30 am **Prayer group** meeting for the PNC

10:00 am **Bible Study** meets in the library.

5:30 pm **Rehearsal for the children's *Messiah***. Dinner will be provided and we will finish by 6:50 pm.

6:30 pm **Senior Highs** meet at Arby's for fellowship and supper. Bring \$\$ for the meal.

Saturday, December 8

10:00 am **Children's Dress Rehearsal for *Messiah***. We will finish by 11:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Angel Tree (sponsored by the Salvation Army) is outside the church office. Angel tags with names of children and parents along with ages, sizes, etc. will be on the tree. You

are encouraged to select an angel tag and purchase a gift. Please return the gift unwrapped and labeled with the original angel tag no later than Dec. 9. Gifts will be taken to the Salvation Army on the morning of Dec. 10.

The Children's Choir will be performing "The Messiah for Young Voices" on Dec. 9 in the sanctuary during Sunday School time. Everyone is invited.

The Christmas Cantata, "A Service of Lessons and Carols" with all of our church choirs, will be held on Dec. 9 at 4:30 pm in the sanctuary. It will be followed by the **Congregational Potluck Dinner** at approximately 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. The church will provide ham, turkey, dressing, corn casserole, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, tea, lemonade, and coffee. The rest will be covered dish. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring an extra large vegetable dish; M-Q, please bring an extra large dessert; R-Z, please bring an extra large salad dish. Please bring gelatin salads and desserts precut. Be sure to have your name on every item you bring because many folks have the same bake ware.

Photo Make-ups - We have set Sat. Dec. 15, 11:00 am – 5:00 pm, as a make-up day for pictures. Call the church to schedule.

Children's Nativity Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 10 am in the sanctuary – all children are invited to participate and should arrive at 9:45 am in order to select a costume. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Advent Calendar Booklets are available on the table outside the church office and in the vestibule.

Memorial Poinsettias – The church will order Christmas poinsettias. Please notify the church office by Mon. Dec. 17 to have names in memorial or in honor (along with donors) listed in the bulletin on Dec. 23. Donations for the poinsettias should be made to the FPC Memorial Garden fund.

Maplemere Christmas Caroling – you are invited to join us for some old fashioned Christmas Caroling in the Maplemere neighborhood on Thursday, December 20. Meet at David & Susan Elliott's home, 115 Maplemere Dr. between 5-5:30 pm. Refreshments will be served at one of the neighbor's home at or around 7:00 pm.

We are collecting food items for the Christmas Food Baskets. A list of what you can bring is in the newsletter and on the table outside the church office. Items may be left in the fellowship hall (coat rack & storage area) or the church office. Volunteers will be needed on Fri. Dec. 21 beginning at 4 pm to sort/count food, and on Sat. Dec. 22 with packing and delivering baskets. More information will be in the Dec. newsletter.

Christmas Eve Candlelighting Services will be at 4:30 pm and 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. There will be special music, scripture readings, meditation, and candle-lighting.



First Presbyterian Church

*With Christ as our Savior and Guide,
We seek to know God's love and share it
With each other, our community and the world.
We invite you to join us in this journey
of discipleship!*

Organized May 25, 1822
Rev. David Handley, Interim Pastor

213 Main Street, Clarksville, TN 37040
voice: 931-645-6551, fax: 931-645-9962
www.fpcclarksville.org
fpcclarksville@gmail.com