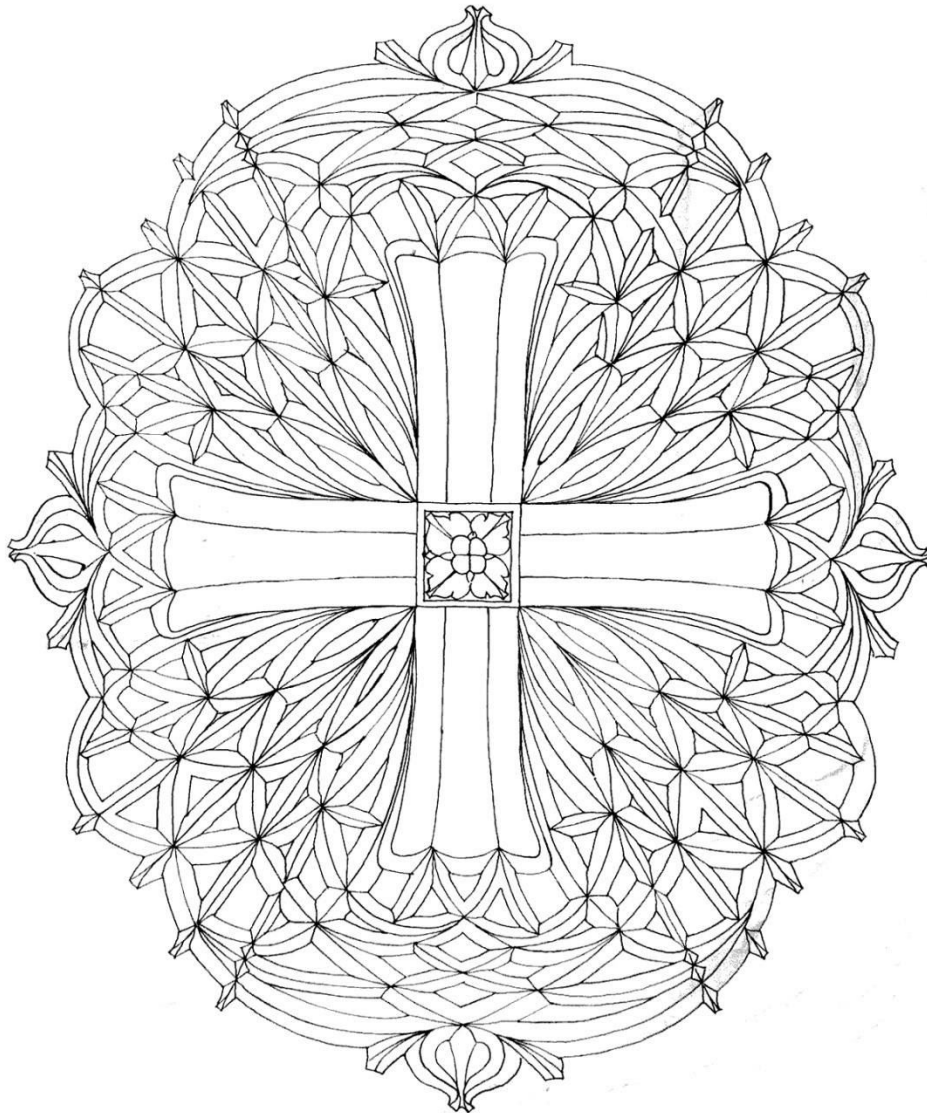


# First Presbyterian Church

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH of Raleigh

*Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends  
of the earth with love, faith and action.*

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*"Psaume" ("Comfort, Comfort Now, My People")*

arr. Franz Liszt

Call to Worship

Say to those who are fearful, "Be strong and do not fear! Behold, your God has not forsaken you!  
With saving mercy, the Lord your God comes to redeem and rescue you! Rejoice and be glad!

**We light this candle as a sign of our hopeful waiting,  
and our faith in the Lord our God.**

Hymn

["Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"](#)

No. 93

Prayer of Confession

Judy Pidcock

**We confess, O God, that we have adapted ourselves to the world in which we live, rather than seeking to be agents of change and renewal. It has been easier to embrace the values and the priorities of the prevailing culture than it is to bear witness to a vision of your Kingdom. We have tried to manage a dual citizenship, O God, with divided loyalties, but it is our devotion to you that has been compromised most of all. But we know that to be apart from you is to be lost, without bearings, and so we yearn to be restored and welcomed home. By the grace of Jesus Christ, make our return from exile possible, that a new life in your presence might begin. Now hear our particular confessions, placed before you in this time of silence...**

Kyrie | Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

**With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love  
God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.**

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

## We Celebrate our Life Together

Moment for Mission

Friendship Fund

Kathy Johnson

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children

Katy Schafer

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

"Guided by Homesickness"

Ed McLeod

## We Respond to God's Word

Hymn

["Prepare the Way, O Zion"](#)

No. 106

Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*"O Thou That Tellest"* from Messiah  
Kathy Johnson, Soprano

G. F. Handel

Prayer of Dedication

## We Bear God's Word into the World

Hymn

["Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"](#)

No. 82

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

**Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,  
that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.**

Postlude

*"Every Valley Shall Be Exalted"* from Messiah

G. F. Handel

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The Advent Stand is given in memory of Dr. W. D. Pressly by his family.

Sacrament of Baptism

Madeline Rose Creek