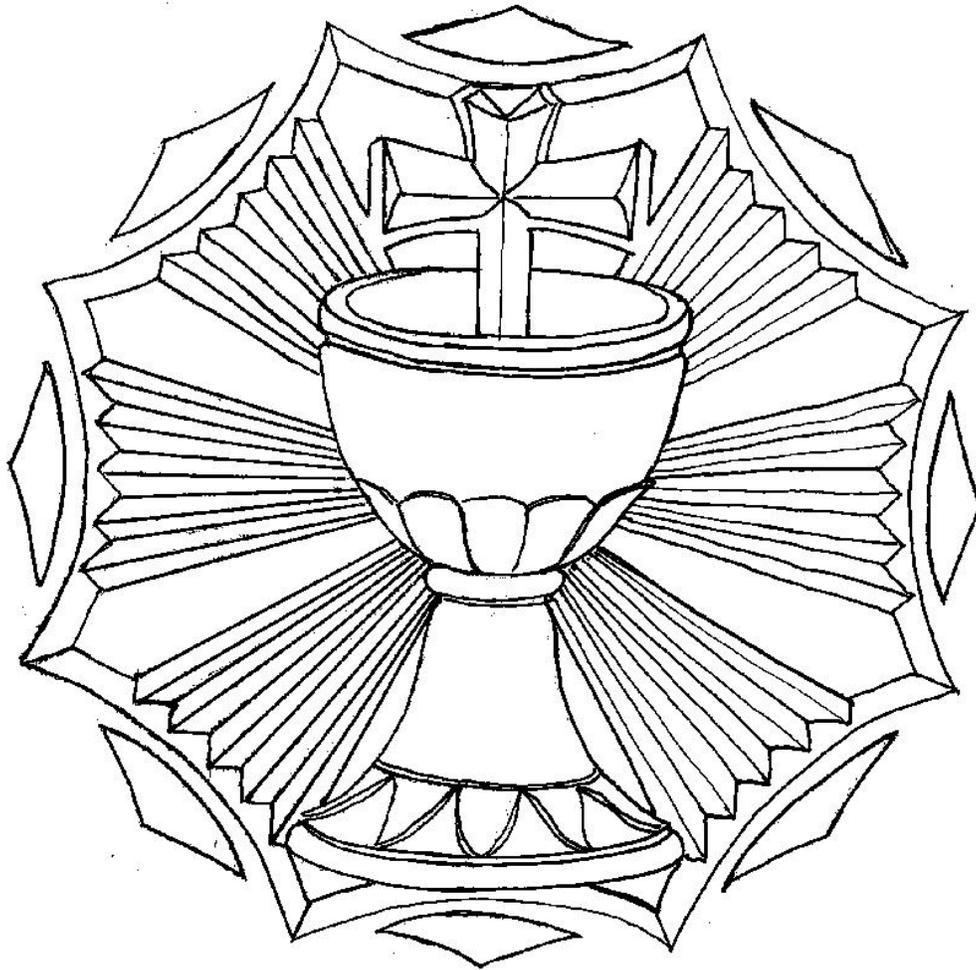


First Presbyterian Church

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

November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent



Chalice with Cross

"Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, "drink from it, all of you." Matthew 26:27

This symbol depicts the celebration of the Lord's supper Jesus shared with his disciples and invites us to share with one another. The symbol can be found on the Chancel Rail.



We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Stephen Fiess, Organist

arr. Stephen Fiess

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Responsive)

(8:30) Peacock family (11:00) Yohman family

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

The light no darkness can overcome.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

And the glory of the Lord shall be upon you.

Hear now the words of the prophet Jeremiah: Jeremiah 33:1-6

Today we light the first candle of Advent which reminds us of the light of hope foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament. They longed for God to fulfill His promise to send the Messiah. The Messiah was the One who would bring peace, love and righteousness to the world. (Lighting of the candle)

Congregational Response (Sung in Unison)

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

*Hymn

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

No. 106

Prayer of Confession

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Having grown accustomed to the darkness, O God, we have stopped hoping for the light. Our eyes have adjusted to the shadows, we have reined in our capacity to hope, and we have learned to live with the world as it is. But when the prophets speak of your covenant promise, and a world made new, hope stirs in us again. Give us receptive hearts, O God, as we await the fulfillment of your best vision for us, through Jesus the Christ. Trusting in your mercy, hear now our own confessions, offered in 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!

*Gloria Patri | Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

We Celebrate our Life Together

Moment for Mission

Friendship Fund

Kathy Johnson

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

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.**

Congregational Response to Prayer

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children (11:00)

Scripture Readings Jeremiah 33:14-16; Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon "A Light in the Darkness" Ed McLeod

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn ["Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"](#) No. 82

An Invitation to Generosity | Friendship Fund receives the loose offering when communion is served.

Offertory "Lo, How a Rose/The Rose" Craig Hella Johnson
Soloists: Sofia Leander, Margaret Lucas, Casey Eaton
Chancel Choir; Andy Eaton, Director of Music

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

 Invitation

 Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

 The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

 Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

 Words of Institution

 Partaking of the Elements | The communion bread is gluten free.

 Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God's Word into the World

*Hymn ["All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"](#) No. 509

*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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Wilbur Held

* All those who are able may stand.

 The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in memory of husband and father,
 Lt. Colonel John Arden Watkins by his wife, Alice, and sons, John, Jr., and Brett.

Offertory Anthem

“Lo, How a Rose/The Rose” by Craig Hella Johnson

Some say love, it is a river
That drowns the tender reed
Some say love, it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed
Some say love, it is a hunger
An endless aching need
I say love, it is a flower
And you its only seed

It's the heart afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking
That never takes the chance
It's the one who won't be taken
Who cannot seem to give
And the soul afraid of dyin'
That never learns to live

When the night has been too lonely
And the road has been too long
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong
Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snows
Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose

Lo, How a Rose e'er blooming
From tender root hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

Upcoming Events

www.fpcraleigh.org/upcoming-events

Annual Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 5: 5:00 pm

You're invited to experience one of our most treasured traditions – as the children and youth of the church present the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Quiet Christmas Worship Service, Monday, December 6: 7:00 pm

While this Advent feels different than most, the hope and promise of the season still remains. Set some time aside for a reflective worship experience. You'll be invited to hear meditations on the themes of the season and find peace in some quiet time with God. You can also light a candle in memory of someone you may be missing this season and offer your prayers to God. You can also watch the service online at www.fpcraleigh.org/video.

Poinsettia Delivery, Wednesday, December 8: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

FPC will continue the holiday tradition of remembering our at-home members with the gift of a poinsettia at Christmas. If you would like to make a delivery to a church member who is no longer able to be active in the life of the congregation, please call the church at (919) 821-5750, provide your contact information to the receptionist, or email Judy Pidcock at jpidecock@fpcraleigh.org. Poinsettias will include a name, address and Christmas card. Thank you for helping our members feel the love of their church family at Christmas!

Reminders

FPC Shares Donation for December

The item for the month of December is soup. We ask that you drop off your donations at one of the receptacles located in the Edge Lobby or in the Lisa Ham Gathering Space right outside of the sanctuary.

Connect with us every week to let us know you worshiped with us or send us your prayer requests.

www.fpcraleigh.org/connect

Subscribe to the First Press newsletter online for the latest news and updates.

www.fpcraleigh.org/first-press

You can give online by using our safe, secure online giving platform.

Go to: www.fpcraleigh.org/give or Text-to-Give: Text “fpcraleigh” to “73256”