

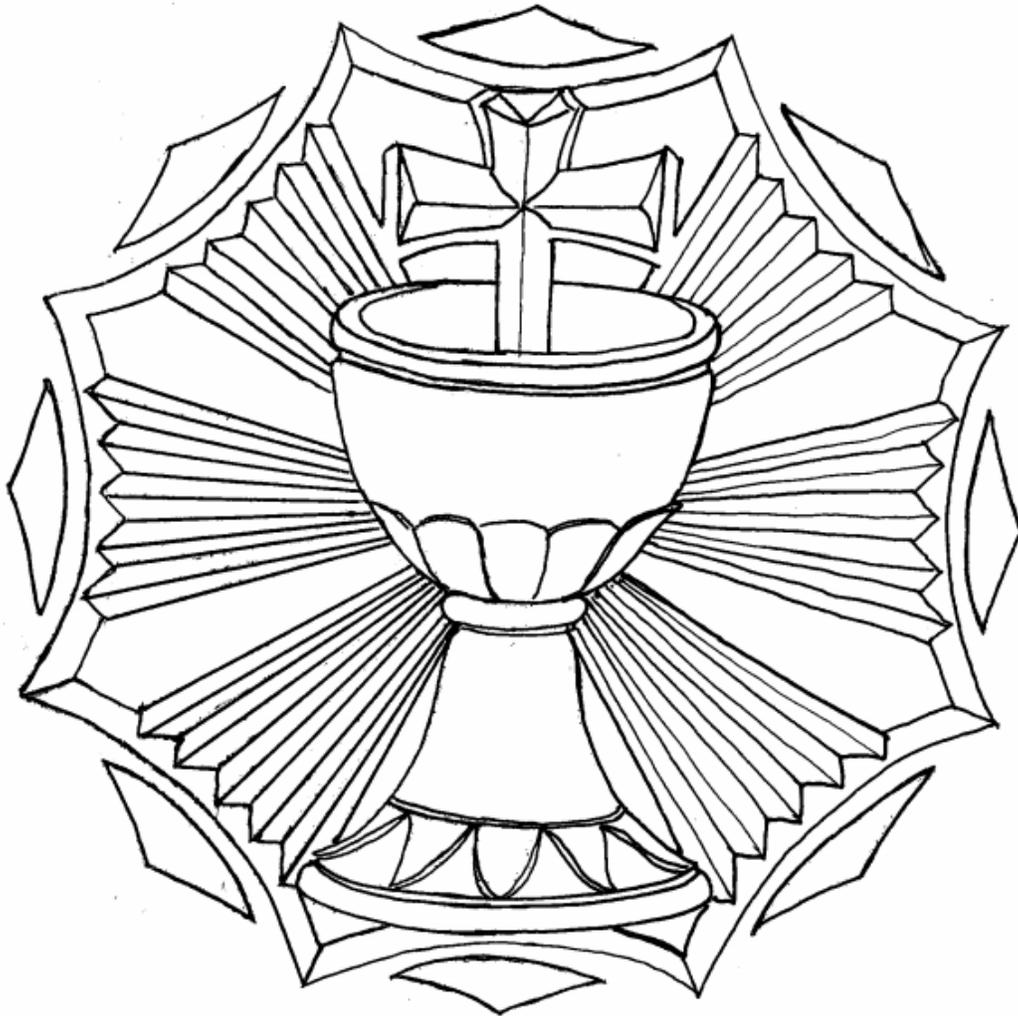
# First Presbyterian Church

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

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November 27, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent



*Matt 26:27-29: Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, "drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you, in my Father's kingdom."*

## We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645

JS Bach

Call to Worship | Lighting of the Advent Candle

(8:30) Brearley Family (11:00) Swindell Family

In days to come, says Isaiah, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established. The people shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

**Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

We light the candle of hope trusting in the promises of God.

**(Hymn no. 88)**

**O Come, O Come, Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

\*Hymn

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

No. 93

Prayer of Confession

**We confess, O God, that we have grown so accustomed to the world as it is, that we have a difficult time imagining a world made new. But Jesus invites us to dream new dreams and hope new hopes. Fueled by the vision of the prophets, Jesus was welcomed to the world with songs of peace on earth, and goodwill to all. Help us to sing those same songs, and to share in the holy work to which we are called. And now hear our particular 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 (8:30am) - Massanetta Springs

Rev. Clayton Rascoe

Introduction of New Members

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.**

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)-

Rev. Clayton Rascoe

*Children age 4 through 2nd grade can leave with Katy Schafer after the message*

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 5:1-10

Sermon

"Imagining a New Possibility"

Ed McLeod

## We Respond to God's Word

\*Hymn

["We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"](#)

No. 378

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

The Lord is my Light  
Chancel Choir

Alexander Gretchaninoff

\*Doxology | **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God above; ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

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

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

*Toccata in E Minor*

Johann Pachelbel

\*All those who are able may stand.

*Children's Church is offered for 4 years-2nd grade during the sermon.  
Today's **acolyte** is Avery Jane Thaxton.*

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 Lyrics

The Lord is my light and my salvation: Whom shall I fear?  
He is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid!

Hide not thy face from me, for thou hast been my help through all my days.  
Put not thy servant away in anger, O leave me not.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a straight path.

## Upcoming Events

**The Christmas Pageant** is December 4th at 5pm. Come celebrate this beloved tradition where children and youth bring the Nativity story to life as they provide action to a narrated, no rehearsal, stress-free pageant in the sanctuary.

**Quiet Christmas Service** is Monday, December 5th at 7pm. Begin the season of Advent with us in a service that invites us to draw near to God.

**Poinsettia Deliveries** to our at home members is December 7th from 9am-12pm. If you are able to help with these deliveries, please sign up at the Edge Lobby Desk.

**An Outing for Families with Young Children** will be on Sunday, December 11th from 1-3pm at Dix Park. Enjoy some cookies, Christmas crafts, and disc golf.

**Cookies and Carols** will be on Tuesday, December 13th from 10am-12pm. Join us for Christmas cookies, coffee, and plenty of fellowship with your church friends!

**An Advent Bible Study** will be hosted by Laurie Taylor Weicher on Tuesday nights from 7-8pm. Loosely based on Amy-Jill Levine's book, "Light of the World, we'll explore the scripture and themes of Advent. Class will be held on November 29, December 6, 13, and 20.

All **Upcoming Events** can be found on our website [www.fpcraleigh.org](http://www.fpcraleigh.org) under the **Church Life** menu

## Reminders

**Join us in Caroling to members of our FPC congregation - Dec 18th from 4-5:30pm** - If singing is not your cup of tea, you can sign-up to bake cookies that will be delivered. Interested persons or families should email Kathy Johnson at [kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org](mailto:kjohnson@fpcraleigh.org).

### FPC Shares Donations - 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. Thank you for your continued support to strengthen this mission of the church and our local food pantries.

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Connect with us every week just to let us know you worshiped with us today or send us your prayer requests. Go to [www.fpcraleigh.org/connect](http://www.fpcraleigh.org/connect).

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