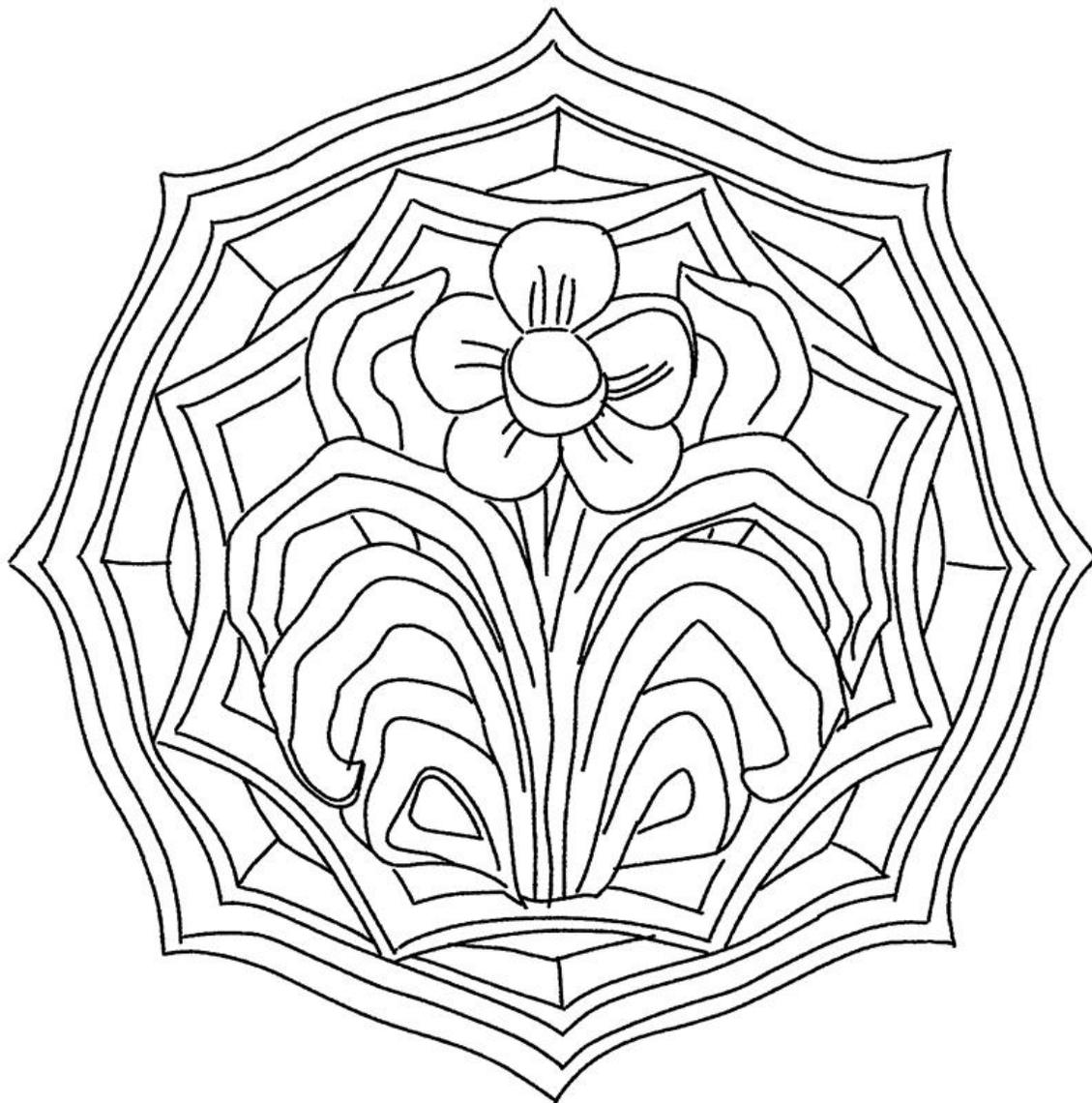


First Presbyterian Church

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

December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent



"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." Song of Songs 2:1

*The Rose of Sharon has also been titled "Christmas Rose,"
the symbol of the nativity of our Lord and is located on the Chancel Rail.*



We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Silent Night
Handbell Choir

Arr. Fred Gramann

Lighting of the Advent Candle

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, says Isaiah, and the spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Our delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

We light the candle of love, trusting in the promises of God.

(Hymn no. 88) O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o-er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Let us worship God!

*Hymn

["Comfort, Comfort Now My People"](#)

No. 87

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that from a position of self-righteousness, we imagine ourselves able to look down in judgment others. But all have sinned and fallen short of your glory, and so all, including we ourselves, stand in need of your grace. And so we exchange our imagined self-righteousness for an honest self-assessment, and we come into your presence, grateful for your mercy, and for the pathway to a new beginning. Equip us to live lives of faithfulness and devotion, to the glory of your name. 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 - 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)

Katy Schafer

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

Scripture Readings

Matthew 3:1-12; Romans 3:21-26

Sermon

"Moving Beyond Fear"

Ed McLeod

We Respond to God's Word

*Hymn

["O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"](#)

No. 104

*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

Angels We Have Heard on High
Handbell Choir

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

*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

We Bear God's Word into the World

*Hymn

["O Christ, the Great Foundation"](#)

No. 361

*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

Wake, Awake, for Night If Flying
Wachet Auf

Paul Manz
Op.22

*All those who are able may stand.

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

The **Chancel Flowers** are dedicated to the glory of God and are given in loving memory of Thomas Russell Grant by Connie, Cindy, Tom, and Terry Grant.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Pageant is tonight 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. Following the pageant is a lovely reception for everyone with food, cookies, and punch in Memorial Hall.

Quiet Christmas Service - Monday, December 5th at 7pm

As Advent begins, you're invited to mark the season differently than the world tells you to. Join us for a Quiet Christmas service at 7pm on Monday, December 5. The service includes readings and time for reflection, scripture, and beautiful music. When the world tells you that this is the most wonderful time of the year, as people of faith we are inviting you to hope for God's vision of the world instead.

Cookies and Carols! Join us Tuesday, December 13 from 10am-12pm in Memorial Hall for a festive morning together. Adult fellowship will provide cookies and together we'll sing beloved carols and enjoy time together.

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.

All **Upcoming Events** can be found on our website www.fpcraleigh.org under the **Church Life** menu

Reminders

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.

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.

To receive the latest news and updates from the church, subscribe to our weekly First Press newsletter online at www.fpcraleigh.org/first-press. Find it under News > Newsletter.