

Charge

Sung Response: (#126 vs. 1)                      *“O Come, Let Us, Adore Him”*  
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us  
adore him, Christ the Lord.

Blessing

Postlude:    *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*  
**Back Street Ringers**    Spiritual

## **Prayer Concerns**

**Members:** Nick and Becky Deschamps, Nathalie Givens, Meg and Bob Omer, Jim Tenser

**Friends and family of FPC:** Mary Black, Joyce Bolton Turbyfill (Lynne Bolton's Aunt), the family of Charles ((Chuck) Burton (Kip's brother), Jackson Hetzel (Valerie Lucas' grandson), Melodye Hollingsworth (friend of Lyn Burton), Sheila Kessler (Danette's sister), Laura Holt McCann, Keith Morgan (friend of Lyn Burton) the family of Janelle Purcella (friend and family of Danette Heinlein), Steve Richards (friend of Sandy Gates), the family of Frank Rizzo (relative of Jim and Sue Porter), John Stump (a friend of the Heinlein's), the family of Greg Vail.

**Copyright: All rights reserved. Reprinted/Recorded with permission under One License #A- 73950**  
**The Worshiping Church Hymnal: 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —**  
**Service Music: # 823 Kyrie, #805 Gloria Patri, #809 Doxology.**

**Hymns: #171 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”; #154 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, #152 “Angels We Have Heard on High”, #126 “O come Let Us, Adore Him”**

**Service Music: “The First Noel”- W. Sandys’ Christmas Carols, 1833; arr. John Stainer, 1871—“The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (162); “O Come All Ye Faithful”- John F. Wade’s Cantus Diversi, 1751-“The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (173); “Silent Night! Holy Night!” -F. Gruber, 1818 “The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (164); “O Holy Night” - Adolphe C. Adam, 19th C.; arr. Jack Schrader, 1989—© 1989 Hope Publishing Company, “The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (160); “Go Tell It on the Mountain” - Afro-American spiritual; arr. D. P. Hustad, 1989 —© 1990 Hope Publishing Company, “The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (151).**

# Service for the Lord's Day

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024—10:30 am In Person & (Live Streaming—10:20 am)

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude: *"The First Noel" & "O Come All Ye Faithful"*  
**Back Street Ringers** Trad. English Carol & Cantus Diversi, 1751

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40:3)

One: Let us worship God. "A voice cries:"

**Many: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."**

One: Praise the Lord!

**Many: The Lord's name be praised.**

Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle—Peace Sky and Rachael Paderick

\* Hymn: #171 *"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*



Call to Confession: (responsive; John 1:8,9)

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**Many: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**All: in humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**God of the future,**

**You are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We have lived casual lives, and ignored your promised judgment. Judge us, O God, for we have been slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want and eagerly wait for.**

Silent Confession:

**Amen**

\* Please stand if you are able

Continued...

Kyrie: Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us. #823

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

One: May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness.

**Many: and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.**

**All: Amen.**

\* 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. #805

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer.



Offering:

Offertory Anthem

**Back Street Ringers**

*"Silent Night"*

F. Gruber

\* Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #808  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

\* Prayer of Dedication



Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: (Pew bible pg. 830)

Malachi 3:1-4

Hymn: #154 (please remain seated)

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

New Testament Reading:(Pew bible pg. 890-891)

Luke 3:1-6

Sermon

*"Are We Ready for Christmas?  
Have We Prepared the Way of the Lord?"*

Moment for Meditation

*"O Holy Night"*

Adolphe C. Adam, 19th C.; arr. N. Lienhard

\* Profession of Faith: #14

Apostles' Creed

Hymn: #152

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

\* Please stand if you are able

Continued... on back

# Calendar of Events

Planned office hours for week of December 9

Monday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Tuesday 9:00 am to 1:30 pm  
Wednesday 11:00 to 4:00 , Friday 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

- Sunday, Dec. 8 2nd Sunday of Advent— Peace**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
**No Sunday School**  
**Duty Elders: Lyn Burton & Cathy Goad**  
**Fellowship: Covered Dish**
- Tues., Dec. 10 Women’s Bible Study, Burton home, 2:00 pm  
Wed., Dec. 11 Joyful Singers, 4:00 pm. Sanctuary  
Sat., Dec 14 Men’s Breakfast, Greenwood, 9:00 am  
Naysmith Christmas Concert, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, Dec. 15 3rd Sunday of Advent— Joy**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room**  
**Duty Elders: Lynne Burton**  
**Fellowship: Kincaid**
- Mon., Dec. 16 HFI, 6:00, Fellowship  
Wed., Dec. 18 Wholeness and Healing Service 5:00, Sanctuary  
Light Supper, after Service, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, Dec. 22 4th Sunday of Advent— Love**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
**Worship Service: 10:30 am**  
**Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room**  
**Duty Elders: Lynne Burton**  
**Fellowship: Dickersons**  
Mennonite Christmas Concert—6:00 pm, Sanctuary.
- Tues., Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Service** 7:00 pm, Sanctuary  
Wed., Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**

## THIS WEEK’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Special thanks the **Back Street Ringers** for leading music this morning: Verna Shuey, Lynne Bolton, Lyn Burton, Patsy Dickerson, Cathy Goad, Jennifer Kincaid, Patty Vari, Debbie Coots, and Sue Porter.
- ◆ Make sure you plan on joining us for post-service Fellowship today—**Pot Luck!**
- ◆ **Check the Fellowship Calendar in the Fellowship Hall. We still have Sunday December 29, open!**
- ◆ The **Angel Tree** donations this year will be divided equally between the Social Services fuel assistance program and the Botetourt food pantry. Donation checks can be made out to the Church with Angel Tree in the comments. We will also have a special option on our E-giving that allows a donation to go to Angel Tree. We will start taking these donations immediately, through Sunday, December 15.
- ◆ If you or your organization needs to use **any space at the church**, please let Danette know so she can make sure the calendar is clear!
- ◆ The next **Women’s Bible Study** will be December 12, 2:00 pm, at Lyn Burton’s home. We will be using the devotional “*Jesus Calling For Christmas*”, by Sara Young for that Christmas meeting.
- ◆ Don’t miss the Men’s breakfast at Greenwood on Saturday morning December 14. Gather together in fellowship to start your day!
- ◆ The Naysmith Christmas Concert, ***The True Meaning of Christmas***, will be held in our Sanctuary on Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. Come and hear a wonderful variety of beautiful professional musicians!
- ◆ Mark your calendar’s now for the **December Wholeness and Healing Prayer Service** on Wednesday, December 18, with a Light Supper available, immediately following.
- ◆ Our annual **Lessons and Carols** special service will be on Sunday, December 22 this year. Join us for a Community Sing of Christmas Carols, during Fellowship.
- ◆ **QR Code for an E-Giving option:**



# *Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

P.O. Box 144  
Fincastle, VA 24090  
fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com  
(540) 473-2042  
[www.fincastlepresbyterian.org](http://www.fincastlepresbyterian.org)  
The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D. Min.

## **Mission Statement:**

Striving to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, growing in God through uplifting and inspiring spiritual experiences, and serving the community in love.

## **Clerk of Session: John Kilby**

***Class of 2024:*** Cathy Goad, Paul Phillippe, Bo Trumbo

***Class of 2025:*** Fred Coots, Lynne Bolton, Jim Porter

***Class of 2026:*** Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey, Patsy Dickerson

## **The Trustees**

Bob Omer, Garland Jones, Peggy Davis

## **The Church Staff**

**Interim Minister:** The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson

**Treasurer:** Hal Bailey

**Music Director:** Lori Turner

**Secretary/Bookkeeper:** Danette Heinlein

## **The Story Behind ....**

**...the hymn**

## ***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

During a trip to the Holy Land in 1865, Phillips Brooks went to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve for worship. He was deeply moved by this experience.

Three years later, while pastoring the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, he desired to have a special carol for the children to sing in their Sunday school Christmas program. Remembering the peaceful scene from his visit to Bethlehem, he completed writing the text in one evening.

He gave a copy of the words to his organist, Lewis R. Redner, and request that Lewis compose a melody that would be easy for the children to sing. Lewis didn't come up with the tune, until the evening before the program was to be performed. In fact, he was sleeping and woke up with the tune in his mind. He wrote it out and “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” has been a favorite with children and adults around the world since that time.

In the middle of all the rush and activity of the Christmas season, take time to rejoice in the joy of Christ's birth.



## Old Testament Reading:

### Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?"

"For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

## New Testament Reading:

### Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tibe'ri-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abile'ne, <sup>2</sup>in the high-priesthood of Annas and Ca'iaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechari'ah in the wilderness; <sup>3</sup>and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be brought low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways shall be made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



## Hymns:

### #171 *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

### #154 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous Gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven!  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

### #152 *“Angels We Have Heard On High”*

1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

3 Come to Bethlehem, and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

4 See within a manger laid  
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
sing with us our Savior's birth. [Refrain]