

Sermon

*“The Gift of Penitence In Christ:
Forgiveness and Grateful Obedience To Christ”*

Moment for Meditation

*“What Child Is This?”
English (“Greensleeves”)*

* Profession of Faith: #14

Apostles’ Creed

Hymn: #146 (Vs 1,3,4)

“Joy to the World”

Charge

Sung Response: (#20 vs. 1)

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*Joyful Joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of Love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!*

Blessing

Postlude:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Joyful Singers

Spiritual

Congregation is invited to sing along!

Prayer Concerns

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

Friends and family of FPC: Mary Black, the family of Charles (Chuck) Burton (Kip’s brother), Jackson Hetzel (Valerie Lucas’ grandson), Sheila Kessler (Danette’s sister), Laura Holt McCann, Keith Morgan (friend of Lyn Burton), the family of Frank Rizzo (relative of Jim and Sue Porter), the family of Greg Vail.

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The Worshiping Church Hymnal: 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —
Service Music: # 823 Kyrie, #805 Gloria Patri, #809 Doxology.

Hymns: #161 *“Once in Royal David’s City”*; #146 *“Joy to the World”*, #20 *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*,

“In The Bleak Midwinter” - “The United Methodist Hymnal” —© 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

Service Music: *“In The Bleak Midwinter”- C G. Rossetti, 1872 / G. Holst “The United Methodist Hymnal” [Ibid.], “O little Town of Bethlehem”- P. Brooks, 1868/L.H. Redner, 1868, “The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (155); “O Come O Come, Emmanuel”- J. M. Neale, 1851/T. Helmore, 1854/ Trad. melody-“The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (133); “What Child is This?” -W.C. dix, c 1865/ Trad. English melody. “The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (150); “Go Tell It on the Mountain” - J.W. Work, 1907/Afro-American Spiritual—“The Worshiping Church Hymnal” [Ibid.] (151);*

Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024—10:30 am In Person & (Live Streaming—10:20 am)

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude: *"In the Bleak Midwinter" & "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*
Joyful Singers Rosetti/Holst & Brooks/Renner, 1751

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (responsive; Isaiah 35:3-4, adapted)

One: Let us worship God. "Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees."

Many: **"Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!" "**

All **"Here is your God. He will come . . . He will come and save you!"**

Prayer of Invocation

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle—Joy Lori Turner & Danette Heinlein

* Hymn: #161 *"Once In Royal David's City"*


Call to Confession: (responsive)

One: The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us.

Many: **Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence.**

All: **In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer,

We confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed.

In your great mercy, forgive our sins, and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Silent Confession:

Amen

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

Assurance of Pardon: (responsive)

One: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Many: **He Himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.**

All: **We declare to all who repent in the name of Jesus, we are forgiven!**

* 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 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel/What Child Is This?"*
Joyful Singers Neale/Helmore & Dix/Trad. Melody

* 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 pgs. 816-817) Zephaniah 3:14-20

Hymn: See Insert (please remain seated) *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*

New Testament Reading:(Pew bible pg. 891) Luke 3:1-6

Calendar of Events

Planned office hours for week of December 9

Monday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00-1:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

- Sunday, Dec. 15** 3rd Sunday of Advent— Joy
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room
Duty Elders: Lynne Bolton & Paul Phillippe
Fellowship: Kincaid
- 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
Christmas Joy Offering
Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room
Duty Elders: Lynne Bolton, Cathy Goad
Fellowship: Provided by Patsy & David—their gift to the Church
Mennonite Christmas Concert—6:00 pm, Sanctuary.
- Tues., Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Service** 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
Duty Elders: P. Dickerson & Lynne Bolton
Special offering for PCHH.
- Wed., Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**
- Sunday, Dec. 29** 1st Sunday of Christmas
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Duty Elders: Lynne Bolton & Cathy Goad
Fellowship: Heinlein
- Tues., Dec. 31 **New Years Eve**
- Wed., Jan. 1

Joyful
MERRY & BLESSED

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Thank you to the **Joyful Singers** for sharing special music this morning: Lynne Bolton, David Dickerson, Danette Heinlein, Rachael Paderick, Sue Porter.
- ◆ Plan on joining us this Wednesday for the **December Wholeness and Healing Prayer Service**. This is a special time of silence, music and prayer with a Light Supper and fellowship immediately following.
- ◆ **Check the Fellowship Calendar in the Fellowship Hall. January is wide open!**
- ◆ This is the last Sunday to put in donations for our special **Angel Tree** offering. This year it 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 also have a special option on our E-giving that allows a donation to go to Angel Tree.
- ◆ Our annual **Lessons and Carols** special service will be on Sunday, December 22. **Two Scales Music**, a multi-instrumental duo (Chloe and Stewart Scales) will perform traditional carols and Celtic music on harp, cello and guitar. Join us for a community sing of Christmas carols during Fellowship.
- ◆ Our special **Christmas Joy Offering** will be on Dec. 22. Our **Christmas Eve** offering, Dec. 24, will benefit Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands.
- ◆ Our **Christmas Eve Service** will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24 and will feature the final Advent Reading and our Back Street Ringers handbell choir.
- ◆ If you or your committee or organization needs to use **any space at the church**, please let Danette know so she can make sure the calendar is clear!
- ◆ The next **Men's breakfast** will be at Northstar on Saturday morning January 11. Gather together in fellowship to start your day!
- ◆ The next **Women's Bible Study** will be January 14 at 2:00 pm at the Church
- ◆ **QR Code for an E-Giving option:**





1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Heav - en can - not hold Him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give Him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when He comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but His moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God al - might - y, Je - - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give Him: give my heart.



The Story Behind

...the hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

“In the Bleak Midwinter” is a poem by the English poet Christina Rossetti. It was published under the title “**A Christmas Carol**” in the January 1872 issue of *Scribner’s Monthly*, and first collected in book form in *Goblin Market, The Prince’s Progress and other Poems* (Macmillan, 1875).

It has been set to music several times. Two settings, those by Gustav Holst and by Harold Darke, are popular and often sung as Christmas carols. Holst’s is a hymn tune call Cranham, published in 1906 in *The English Hymnal* and simple enough to be sung by a congregation. Darke’s is an anthem composed in 1909 and was intended for a trained choir; it was named the best Christmas carol in a 2008 poll of leading choirmasters and choral experts.

In verse one, Rossetti describes the physical circumstance of the Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem. In verse two, Rossetti contrasts Christ’s first and second coming.

The third verse dwells on Christ’s birth and describes the simple surroundings, in a humble stable, watched by beasts of burden. Rossetti achieves another contrast in the fourth verse, this time between the heavenly angels present at Christ’s birth with Mary’s human ability to give Jesus physical affection. The final verse shifts the description to a more introspective thought process.

Thank you for the blessings you have provided in decorating our sanctuary this Christmas Season.

ho	In Honor of:	In Memory of:
Lynne Bolton Alan Brenner Kip and Lyn Burton Fred & Debbie Coots Fred & Debbie Coots Peggy Davis Patsy & David Dickerson Dickerson Mike and Cathy Goad Danette Heinlein	Our Family To the glory of God	Joeanna & Corky Bolton Carol Jean & Fred Coots Jack & Marie Bailey Hunter & Viola Painter Our family Dewey, Nellie & Ronnie Goad Gail & Marianne Heinlein & Walter and Ruby Ford
Danette Heinlein Danette Heinlein Jane & Garland Jones Bob Omer Jim & Sue Porter Julia Richardson Ed & Verna Shuey Patty Vari	Acadia, Poppy, Elias & Vera Our parents Meg	Frank Rizzo & Dana Wilson Whitey Our parents Rick Vari
Bill & Teri Walker	Grandchildren & Greatgrandchildren	

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

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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



Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has cast out your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear evil no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not fear, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

“I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you together;
yea, I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

New Testament Reading: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the multitudes asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than is appointed you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Rob no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were in expectation, and all men questioned in their hearts concerning John, whether perhaps he were the Christ, ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he preached good news to the people.

Hymns:

#161 *“Once In Royal David’s City”*

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and meek and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.

#145 *“Joy to the World”*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

