

Offering

Offertory Anthem

"Londonderry Air"

Cello & Guitar

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Sermon: *"Christmas Remembered: Christmas Anticipated"*

Closing Congregational Carol: #152 *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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.

Postlude

"Blue Ridge Cabin Home"

Guitar & Cello



Thank you "Two Scales Music" for sharing beautiful music at FPC! Chloe is a classically trained cellist and Stewart a self-taught bluegrass guitar player. Together they play a variety of instruments and styles. They met at the Floyd Country Store and married in 2016.

Special Thanks to our Readers today: Kip & Lyn Burton (advent), Sandy Gates, Rena Heslip, Sue Porter, Verna Shuey, Jim Porter, Danette Heinlein, Fred Coats, and David Dickerson

Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2023 — 10:30 am (In Person & Live Streaming)

Lessons and Carols

The hymns will not be announced before singing.

Gathering Music

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Traditional Scottish Air "Arran Boat Song"

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40:9)

One: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Many: **Sing to the Lord and bless God's name; tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle—Love Kip and Lyn Burton

Prayer of Invocation

Congregational Carol #171 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1st Lesson: A Great Light in the Darkness Isaiah 9: 2, 6
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Cello & Guitar

2nd Lesson: A Little Child Will Lead Them Isaiah 11:1-4a
Scottish Folk Song "Loch Lomond" Harp

3rd Lesson: An Angel Appears to Mary Luke 1:26-31
"Simple Gifts" Cello & Guitar

4th Lesson: An Angel Appears to Joseph Matthew 1:18-23
American Folk Song "Ashokan Farewell" Cello & Guitar
Congregation Carol #155 (vs 1) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

5th Lesson: Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7
Congregational Carol #149 (vs 1) "Away in a Manger"
Scottish Folk Song "Skye Boat Song" Harp

6th Lesson: Angels Announce the Messiah and the Shepherds Go to See the Child Luke 2:8-16

"What Child Is This?/Angels We Have Heard on High" Cello & Guitar

7th Lesson: Magi Come From the East Matthew 2:1-3, 7-11

Congregational Carol # 185 (vs 1) "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Celtic Folk Song "Loch Tay Boat Song" Harp

8th Lesson: And the Word Became Flesh John 1-5, 14

Congregational Carol #146 (vs 1,4) "Joy To the World"

Call to Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us Pray

Prayer

Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. Hear us now as we pray as Christ has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

(continued on back page)

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 Wren Rubis (Lori Turner's Aunt and Pat Roberts's sister), the family of Frank Rizzo (relative of Jim and Sue Porter), the family of Greg Vail.

Announcements

- ◆ **Check the Fellowship Calendar in the Fellowship Hall.** January is wide open!
- ◆ 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, 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!
- ◆ **Fellowship:** There is a new Fellowship Calendar downstairs. Please sign up for the Sunday of your choice!
- ◆ 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
- ◆ There is a new **Duty Elder** sign-up calendar for 2025 on the bulletin board in the side hallway. Please start filling up January.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 5! **It will be our 2¢ A Meal offering Sunday.** Remember to collect loose change, dollar bills, etc. for this special offering. You can also use our E-giving option for this donation. We will also be collecting shelf stable items for the local food pantry!
- ◆ **QR Code for an E-Giving option:**



Calendar of Events

Planned office hours for week of December 22
Office Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Thursday December 26, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Friday December 27 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

- 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 New Years Day
- Sunday, Jan. 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas**
2 Cents a Meal and Food Pantry offerings
Worship Service: 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:30 am, Logan Room
Duty Elders: _____ & _____
Fellowship: _____
- Saturday, Jan 11 Men's Breakfast—Northstar**

Thank you to all who have blessed our Sanctuary with the beauty of Poinsettia's this fine Christmas Season:

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

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



First Reading
A Great Light in the Darkness

Isaiah 9:2,6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, To us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Second Reading
A Little Child Will Lead Them

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

Third Reading
An Angel Appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-31

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Fourth Reading
An Angel Appears to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and his name shall be called Emman'u-el"
(which means, God with us).

Fifth Reading
Mary Gives Birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Sixth Reading
Angels Announce the Messiah and The Shepherds Go To See The Child.

Luke 2:8-16

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among men
with whom he is pleased!"

Sixth Reading continued

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger

Seventh Reading
Magi Come from the East

Matthew 2:1-3, 7-11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Eighth Reading
And The Word Became Flesh

John 1:5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.