Hanging of the Greens

First Presbyterian Church

November 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

Silent Prayer of Preparation

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour.
You sent prophets to prepare your way among us,
to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight.
Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Sustain us with hope and make us ready
for your reign of peace, joy, and love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Alabama!

*An asterisk denotes standing-in body or spirit.

The congregation is invited to recite bold text together.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Chiming of the Bell

Significance of the Bells

Words of Welcome

Please sign in on the red pew pads at the end of each row and share those with your neighbor.

Prelude *Wake, Awake for the Night is Flying!* Arr. Reginald Gerig

Significance of the Symbols

Significance of the Paraments

*Call to Worship

One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?
All: With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.
One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?
All: With garlands of pine whose leaves are ever living, ever green.
One: How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?
All: With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death and resurrection.
One: How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?
All: By hearing again, the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving word of God.
One: For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.
All: Glory to God in the highest! Let us worship God.

*The Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And, also with you.
Take a moment to greet one another in the peace of Christ and welcome your neighbors.

*Hymn 105 *People, Look East* BESAÇON

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the weary world, a vision of the day when God will bring our conflicts to an end. God's house will be on top of the highest mountain, and people from all over will come to it.
All: God will judge all countries and settle our arguments.
One: Weapons will be turned into tools for growth.
All: Wars will come to an end.
One: As we wait faithfully for God's time, we light the candle of Hope.
All: Our hope is in God, who will bring all nations together.

Prayer of Affirmation

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP:

Rev. J. David Randolph, Senior Pastor

Dr. Patricia Hacker, Director of Music

Dr. Lois Lee, Organist

Kathy Gillmore, Director of Christian Education

Chancel Choir

Ushers:
8:30 am:
Houston, Benjamin & Thomas Matthews

11:00 am:
Beth Clapp

Thank you to everyone who volunteered during this worship service.

Video and Sound:
Tom Stroud
David Young
Maxwell R. Carter

If you would like to give your offering via credit card, please scan the QR code.

Anthem *The Advent Wreath Carol* Alan Mitchell

Chancel Choir

Four bright lights, candle lights,
Fragile flames glowing in the breeze;
Stand before the people as we worship God:
One of hope, one for peace, one for joy and one for love;
Frame this advent season, mark this special time.

Why do we light these candles in their wreath of green?
We celebrate Christ's coming and what that coming means!
Hope and peace, love and joy: Gifts wrapped up in a baby boy;
Sent by God for Christmas and the whole year through!

We need hope, we need peace:
Hope that finds its peace in Thee;
Hope can conquer worry,
Peace can calm all strife.
We need joy, we need love:

Joy and love for our troubled lives,
Joy in loving others, joy in loving Thee.
God sent His Son to save us, grace in a baby boy;
That's why we light these candles,
That's why we know this joy, this joy!

Hope and peace, love and joy:
Gifts wrapped up in a baby boy;
Sent by God for Christmas
And the whole year through!

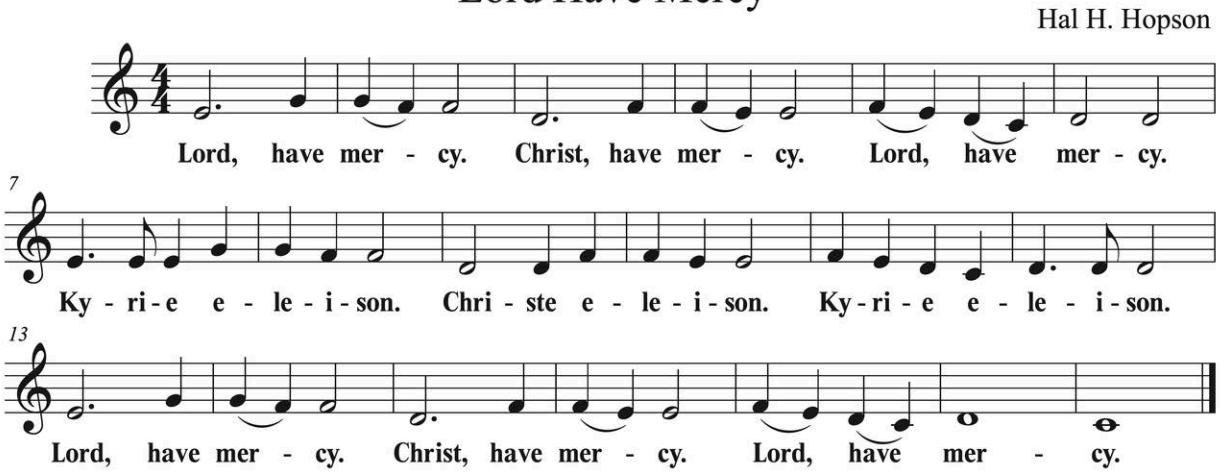
Prayer of Confession

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. We are distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. Be gracious toward us, Emmanuel, until we are gathered together from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into your loving embrace. (*A Time of Silent Confession*) **Amen.**

KYRIE

Lord Have Mercy

Hal H. Hopson



Assurance of Pardon

One: Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: "I have swept away your sin like a cloud, your failures like morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Sacrament of Baptism (11:00) Tinsley Evelyn White,
Daughter of Jane and Andrew White

* 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 on 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.

Congregational Response 482 *Baptized in Water*
*(*verse *3)*

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel Reading John 15:1-17, NRSV

Time for Young Disciples

All children are invited to come forward during Jesus Loves Me for a message and prayer. Children are encouraged to stay for the whole Hanging of the Greens service today, but care for our youngest children is available at any time as needed in the Nursery.

Significance of the Chrismon Ornaments

*Hymn 129 *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"* EST IST EIN' ROS'

Significance of the Pontsettias

Significance of the Garlands, Wreaths, and Sanctuary Evergreens

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *The Holly and the Ivy* Arr. Cathy Moklesburst

Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY 606 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Prayers of the People 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.

SENDING OURSELVES INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S LOVE

Hymn 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

*Charge and Benediction

One: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God, who is in heaven.

All: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. As we leave this place, may the spirit of Christ lead us to share with others the joy we have felt and the good news we have heard. May we leave this place filled with light and radiance, for we have been in the presence of God. May our souls be peaceful, for we have been cleansed by the healing power of God. May we leave this place empowered and strengthened, may we leave this place having worshiped God, and having our hearts and souls mended by the blood of Christ, who was born to set us free.
Glory to God in the highest! Savior of the nations, Come!

Congregational Benediction 110 *Love Has Come* BRING A TORCH

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Postlude *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Arr. Paul Laubegayer

Prayer List

Please take the bulletin home to add these names to your daily prayers.
Prayer requests should be emailed to Kristin Pepper, Administrative Assistant,
at admin@fpchsv.org.

Church Members

Family of Virginia Bailey
Betty Dunaway
Family of Frances Byrd
Family of Tom Hudson
Thomas Causey
Anne Michael Causey
Eleanor and George Harsh
Alice Gardner
Stella Wilson
Sandra Stewart
Anne Whitfield
Becky Buckner
Alicia Beam
Charlie Watkins
Barbara (Bonny) Morris
Sheree Adams

Members and Relatives in Specialty Care

Hoyt Harris (Brookdale)
Cay Lambert (Huntsville Health & Rehab)
Annewhite Fuller (Whitesburg Gardens)

Military & International

Prayers for Haiti and our mission partners.
All those serving in the armed forces;
LT Connor Howard, U.S. Navy Pilot
Allen Pepper

Friends and Family

Nancy Hill (cousin of Marian Bevel)
Kathy Compher (cousin of Karen Ferguson)
The Owens family
Jim Fleming (friend of Ed and Betty Green)
James Polk (father of Allen Polk)
Bob Davis
Karen Farrell (friend of Katy Bryan)
Jim Davenport (father of Drew Davenport)
David and Claire Bailey (family of Harald Bailey)
Family of Moon Soon Kwak (Lois Lee's father)
James Neely (grandson of Serena Neely)
Wendy Remple (family member of Diann Berry)
Joan Mitchell and family (grandmother of Mitch Carroll)
Harper Grace Rice (daughter of Mindy and Alan Nettles)
Randy Miller (friend of the Lee family)
Ashley McCrary (friend of Leigh Brown)
Family of Bettie Lewter (friend of Bob and Genie Miller)
Roger Holliday (father of Hamilton Holliday)
Mary Streecter
Tate Grueling (friend of Harriet Bibb)
Jan Thompson (sister of Gail Sparks)
Misty Short Anderson and family and friends
Maggie Day & Josie (cousins of George Harsh)
The Wilmer Family (friends of Katy Bryan)
Chet Johnston (friend of Frederick Wessel)
Melinda Thompson (daughter of Mary Edith Thompson)
Rob Klouw & Katherine Randall (friends of Rachel Harrod)
Family and friends of Maxwell Carter
Kyser family (friends of Tam Bevel & Judy Howard)
Deborah Lamb (family member of the Huarotos)
Nathan Harsh Brown Chitty (cousin of George Harsh)
Bennie Jacks (friend of George & Eleanor Harsh)
Grant Adams (brother of Glen Adams)
Emily Neely (daughter-in-law of Serena Neely)
Patty Monnett (friend of Katy Bryan)
Marie Mitchell (mother of Libby Smith)
Antony Leo (brother of Lori Smith)
Claudia Fahrner
David, Jessi, & Emma Grace Hill (friends of Davis Carter)

Things Happening in the Life of the Church

Worship services continue to be held in the Sanctuary at 8:30 am and 11:00 am. Children's Church is open for children ages 3-10 after the message for young disciples. Parents may pick up their kids after worship from room 205, located at the end of the long hallway, left of the new elevator. Nursery is offered in room 206 for our littlest Presbyterians during worship.

Sunday School Classes meet in the Gideon Blackburn House at 9:45 am. The Seminar Class meets in the living room. Children and youth classes meet downstairs. A nursery is available in the GBH during Sunday School.

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation can be found in John Allan Hall after the 8:30 worship service.

Wednesday Night Suppers return on December 2 and 9 for a Holiday edition in Fellowship Hall!
Dinner opens at 5:30pm and the line runs through 6:30pm. Children practice for the Christmas Pageant and Adults gather for an intergenerational Bible Study at 6:15 pm. Please RSVP online, with the church office.

The Huntsville Master Chorale will kickoff the Christmas season with a concert titled "Illuminare." This concert will present a journey from darkness to light and will be held at FPC on Saturday, December 5 at 5:30 pm. Admission is free.

The Youth Group gathers for a Christmas Party at the Randolph's home on Sunday, December 6!
Speak with Anne Dillon to see what you can bring to share.

Thank you for faithfully considering how God calls us all to live out the lessons of Matthew 25 in the upcoming year. Additional stewardship packets are available in the Narthex or online. Pledge cards and Time and Talent Surveys may be turned in to the church office.

Sunday, November 29, 2026
8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room 206
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service SAN
Hanging of the Greens
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church RM 205
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class GBHLR
9:30am –10:30am Children Sunday School GBHB
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal SAN
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service SAN
Hanging of the Greens
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205
12:00pm –1:00pm Choir Practice SAN

Monday, November 30, 2026
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
5:30pm –6:30pm Mission and Evangelism Meeting CH

Tuesday, December 1, 2026
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
10:00am –11:00am Church Staff Meeting GBHLR
2:00pm –4:00pm PW Circle 3 CH
5:30pm –8:30pm Cub/Boy Scouts GBH

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
7:00am –8:00am Men's Bible Study GBHLR
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
9:30am –10:30am Construction Meeting CH
11:30am –12:30pm Moms at the Well Bible Study GBHB
1:30pm –3:00pm Prayer Shawl Group CH
5:30pm –7:00pm WNS
6:00pm –7:30pm Chancel Choir Practice SAN

Thursday, December 3, 2026
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
10:15am –10:30am First Friends Chapel Basement Rm 10
11:00am –12:00pm Prayer Group GBH Basement
12:00pm –1:00pm Al-Anon CH

Friday, December 4, 2026
9:00am –1:00pm First Friends
Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 6, 2026
8:15am –12:00pm Nursery Room 206
8:30am –9:30am Worship Service SAN
8:45am –9:30am Children's Church RM 205
9:30am –10:30am Charles Danner Seminar Class GBHLR
9:30am –10:30am Children Sunday School GBHB
9:30am-10:30am Montreat Meeting CH
10:30am –11:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal SAN
11:00am –12:00pm Worship Service SAN
Cantata
11:15am –12:00pm Children's Church RM 205
12:00pm –1:00pm Choir Practice SAN
5:00pm-7:00pm Youth Christmas Party at the Randolph's

CH- Carriage House (GBH)
FH- Fellowship Hall
GBH- Gideon Blackburn House
GBHB- Gideon Blackburn House Basement
SAN- Sanctuary
HR- Historical Room
JAH- John Allan Hall (GBH)
GBHLR- Gideon Blackburn House Living Room
GBHYR- Gideon Blackburn House Youth Room

FPC Advent Services

November 29th
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Hanging of the Greens

December 6th
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Christmas Cantata

December 13th
8:30 AM Prayer Service
& 11 AM Christmas Pageant
**reception to follow*

December 20th
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th
3:00 PM & 5:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 27th
One service
11:00 AM
First Sunday of Christmas