



A Cinematic Christmas

Sunday Morning Worship

November 28, 2021

9:30 am



Service for the Lord's Day: 1st Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021 9:30 am

*indicates congregation is invited to stand in body and/or in spirit;
bolded words indicate congregational participation

Gathering Song # 103

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

O-So-So

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Blake Tickle

Please sign the online friendship pad making use of your smartphone camera to do so. This allows us to know you are worshipping with us this morning. You may also include any prayer requests or concerns you may have with Pastor Kathryn.



Prelude

Cynthia Hartis, piano

Lighting of the Advent Wreath/Call to Worship

Charles and Lesa Layno

We adorn our sanctuary today with symbols of Advent and Christmas.

Today marks the beginning of a new church year.

Purple, the color for penitence and royalty, is used to mark the seasons of Advent and Lent, the times of preparation before Christmas and Easter.

We light the first candle of the Advent wreath, which is purple and symbolizes hope.

It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

We wait in expectation and anticipation for the coming of the Messiah.

The people of Mexico and Central America call the brilliant tropical poinsettia plant the “Flower of the Holy Night.”

This beautiful plant symbolizes of the Star of Bethlehem.

Evergreen wreaths and garlands are a symbol of things that last.

With the Christmas tree, we remember God's everlasting promises to the poor and needy...

Today, we decorate this tree with Chrismons which are symbols and signs of Christ to remind us of Christ's identity, God's story, and the Holy Trinity.

We long for Christ to come again and bring light to our world.

The Word of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ lives among us, bringing truth and light as a present reality.

We worship as those who have a glimpse of that reality, and we long for its fullness. We are those who labor to make Christ's light more visible on earth.

Let us praise God, that the light of Christ shines on in the darkness, which has never overcome it.

To God be the glory in Jesus Christ and in the church forever and ever!

*** Opening Hymn # 86**

"The People Who Walked in Darkness"

Bringle/Morris

The people who walked in darkness
awaken to see a great light.

The people who dwelt in the land of the
shadow
rise to a star shining bright.

Refrain:

His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty
God,

Father forever, Prince of Peace.

His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty
God,

Father forever, Prince of Peace.

For God has enlarged the nation,
and prospered the fruit of its land.

God's people are blest with the harvest of
victory,

gift from a bountiful hand. *[Refrain]*

The yoke of despair and bondage,
the chains of the slave master's rod
are shattered and scattered like dust in a
windstorm, loosed by the justice of God.
[Refrain]

For us now a child is given, for all the despised
and forlorn.

The rule of compassion shall rest on his
shoulder.

God's own Messiah is born!

[Refrain]

How vast is our God's dominion!

How far truth and mercy extend.

The zeal of the Lord will accomplish its
purpose:

justice shall reign without end.

[Refrain]

* Prayer of Confession

Lesa Layno

Waiting God, It is never easy for us to confess our sins. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Pouring of the Waters of Baptism

* Assurance of Pardon

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.

* Hymn Response # 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

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.

Time for (All of God's) Children

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 25:1-10

Gospel Reading – Luke 21:25-36

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A Cinematic Christmas: The Polar Express

Rev. Blake Tickle

*** Song****"Jesus, Messiah"**

Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

Refrain:

Jesus Messiah, name above all names
Blessed redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from
Heaven
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all

His body the bread, his blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was
torn
Love so amazing, love so amazing
[Refrain]

All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God, the light of the world
[Refrain]

Sharing Our Fellowship Family's Celebrations and Concerns**Prayers of the People and 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.

Offering

(Tithes and offerings can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church office, through bank draft, or made through online donation – information on how to do that is in the announcements below. Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of Fellowship Presbyterian Church.)

Offertory**Prayer of Dedication**

In this moment of worship we embrace Your presence again, O God. and we offer You our love. In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Savior. And we offer You our resources. In this moment of giving we have heard Your call again, O Lord and we offer You ourselves. Use us – all that we have and all that we are to touch the world with the Christmas message: God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us. Amen.

*** Closing Song # 105****"People Look East"**

Besançon

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able;
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledgling time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

*** Charge and Benediction***** Passing of the Peace***The Peace of Christ Be with You!****Worship Participants***

Rev. Blake Tickle
Cynthia Hartis
Lesa Layno
Charles Layno
Steve Brandt
Susie Knorr
Mary Howe

Music Director
Piano
Liturgist
Technical Support
Technical Support
Technical Support
Technical Support

Today's liturgy adapted from resources found at:

<https://www.ashleydanyew.com/posts/hanging-of-the-greens>

<https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/>

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/11/prayer-of-confession-advent-1-c.html>

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

- **Donna Ritter** (Aimee Steven's aunt), passed away Tuesday in Pennsylvania from pancreatic cancer. Aimee thanks the congregation for their prayers.
- Susie Knorr's uncle, **Paul Williams**, has passed away after a massive stroke 11/17.
- **Ruth Trace** passed away 11/16. Her daughter, Amy Callaghan, and the family would like to celebrate her life in the spring after COVID has lessened.
- **Ruth Steele** (Ned's mother) passed away 11/16. There are no immediate service plans. She will be cremated and buried in Pittsburgh, her hometown, next spring.
- Lesa Layno requests prayers for her cousin's family. **Sandy Lewis** died of COVID on 11/16, leaving a husband and two adult children.
- Nora Burleson requests prayer for her great granddaughter **Baylee Ann**, (age 5) who fractured her elbow and was placed in a cast for 3 weeks. Her grandson, **Yancey**, is doing well with his broken jaw, ready to get wires and explore solid food.
- **Melissa Johnson** had successful knee replacement surgery on November 12 and is recovering at home.
- Continued prayers for our church members: **Lea Groves, Donna, Katie & the Steele family, Nancy Baughman, and Bruce Weaver, and Marjorie Van Horn.**
- Continued prayers for the family and friends of our congregation: **Felicia Schaps** (Lindahl's daughter-in-law's mother), **Teresa** (Terry Anderson's coworker), **Ashley Long** (Joel and Ann Long's daughter-in-law), **Libby Ansel** (Lesa Layno's sister), **Gail Keefe** (John Archambault's colleague), **John Fair** (FPC's former organist), **Joyce Berger** (Kandee's mother), **Gwen Flowers & her family** (Linda Ueland's sister), **Dorothy & Edward Archambault** (John Archambault's parents), **Roe Roe Tucker** (friend of Lesa & Charles Layno), **Arch Gravely** (Peggy Koppel's cousin), **Tim King family** (Phyllis King's son), **Roger Eliason** (Tye Wittmann's coworker).

If you have any additional prayer concerns, please contact Linda Ueland (336-314-5481) or call Martha at the church (336-288-5177).

Announcements

- **Honor Cards:** The Mission Committee is selling Honor Cards in support of its partner ministries of Greensboro Urban Ministries, Backpack Beginnings, and Utkirk Greensboro starting next Sunday, November 28. If you're interested in purchasing cards or would like more information, please contact Judy Meyler.
- Pastor Kathryn is on vacation this week and will return on Monday, November 29. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Rev. Blake Tickle at 336.710.3201.
- **Guidelines for Safe Return to Worship** are posted at the Office and Dogwood Lobby doors for your review. ***Despite the lifting of the Guilford County mask mandate, the mask rule is still in effect in the building. The Session will revisit the mandate at its next Session meeting on December 7.*** If you have questions, please contact Pastor Kathryn or Julie Davis, Clerk of Session.

- **Volunteering with Applewood, Backpack Beginnings, and Greensboro Housing Authority:** Fellowship has started an ongoing partnership between Backpack Beginnings, GHA, and The Applewood Community. Please contact Mary Howe to sign up for one of the Wednesday opportunities (maryhowe0712@gmail.com or call/text 336-698-6541). A signup is also available online and in the Dogwood Lobby. ***The volunteer for December 1 is Bill Sweet .***
 - **Additional Way to Support Backpack Beginnings!** The Mission Committee is collecting “gently used” plastic grocery bags for *Backpack Beginnings*. Please bring your bags to church with you, leaving them on the Mission table in the Dogwood Lobby closest to the double doors leading towards the classrooms.
- **Online giving is available:** Fellowship Presbyterian has online giving available through the Presbyterian Foundation. <http://fpcgso.com/donations>

This Week's Events

- **November 28: First Sunday of Advent**
 - **9:15-11:15am:** Professional Childcare available in the “Preschool” Classroom
 - **9:30am:** Worship – in-person (with masks), on Facebook Live, Zoom and YouTube
 - **10:30am:** Fellowship Time – in Dogwood Lobby
 - **10:45am:** Education Hour in the Library
- **November 29:** Elder Training
- **December 1:**
 - **7am:** Men's Coffee Klatch @ Panera Bread (Lawndale)
 - **12 noon:** Bulletin and Blast Deadline
- **December 2:**
 - **9:30 am and 1:30pm:** Meyer Oil Studio in the Fellowship Hall
 - **1pm:** Bridge in the Parlor
 - **6pm:** Stewardship & Finance Committee via Zoom
 - **7pm:** Fellowship Book Club via Zoom
- **December 5: Second Sunday of Advent**
 - **9:15-11:15am:** Professional Childcare available in the “Preschool” Classroom
 - **9:30am:** Worship – in-person (with masks), on Facebook Live, Zoom and YouTube
 - **10:30am:** Fellowship Time – in Dogwood Lobby
 - **10:45am:** Education Hour in the Library
 - **3pm:** Elder Training