

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020 – 10:30am – Live Streaming



Mission Statement

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

Prelude: "To God We Render Thanks and Praise" J.S. Bach
Evelyn Renshaw, Organist

Welcome and Announcements:

Call to Worship: Luke 3:4-6 (unison)

As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Prayer of Invocation: *The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min*
Hymn: #133 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Call to Confession: (unison)
Trusting in God's promised mercies revealed in Jesus Christ, let us approach our Lord's throne of grace.

Prayer of Confession: from The Worshipping Church #459 (unison)
We are imperfect. God is flawless. We are in time. God is eternal. We are vulnerable. God is unthreatened. We see problems. God has plans. God works in and through and around and in spite of us, accomplishing his aims even as he risks everything by letting us have a part in his great enterprises.

In our weakness we come to you, Father, asking that we may see our lives, our successes and failures, our trials and triumphs, from your point of view.

Silent Confession: Amen

Kyrie: #823

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon: (unison)

Hear the good news!

This statement is completely reliable and should be universally accepted: Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners. He personally bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might be dead to sin and be alive to all that is good.

Friends: let us believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri: #805

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer:

Hymn: #170

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

Prayer of Illumination:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Old Testament Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

New Testament Reading

Sermon:

"Called to be a Witness"

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

*Profession of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed

Hymn: #174

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude: "Prelude in C Major"

J.S Bach

Evelyn Renshaw, Organist

Announcements

Prayer Concerns: Laura Holt McCann, Jean Branscom, Jackie Ferrel, Family of Ruth Schaaf (Bev's Mother), Mary Lee Reese, Mary Black, Clyde & Nathalie Givens, Kaki Peaslee, Doug Ross, Dianne & John Poynor, Marilyn Koch (Lisa's Mother), Family of Janet Woolwine (Carolyn's Sister), Alexis Porter (Porter's Granddaughter), Molly Rose (Valerie Lucas's Cousin), Gwen Griffith, Gretchen Greiner, Lisa Curlee (Sarah Bulmer's Sister), Phyllis Tenser, Marc Evans (Nephew of Peggy's Friend), Rebecca Cook (Evelyn's Cousin), Luke Waldrop (Father of Dr. Kathy Kerkering), Michael Miracle (Kip & Lyn's Nephew), Family of Rosalie Schade (Mark Schade's Mom), Family of Paul Fitzgerald

Angel Tree 2020 will be done differently: We are taking donations which will be forwarded to the Social Services Christmas/Outreach fund. This fund will be used to buy gifts and provide food to families not adopted. They foresee a much bigger need this year. Donations can be made out to Fincastle Presbyterian Church with ANGEL TREE in the memo line and mailed to the church. We feel this is a safe and effective way to support this Christmas outreach. Thanks, Becky DesChamps, Ginnie Philippe and Verna Shuey.

Tithes can be received by the following: Mail check to PO Box 144 Fincastle, VA 24090. If you have any questions please contact Beth at fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

New Church Email Address: fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Members: Please like Fincastle Presbyterian Church on Facebook.

Please email: Any contact and address changes to fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com

Birthdays: Henry Brenner, 12/2; Hannah Brenner, 12/5; Ty Harris, 12/12; Jim Helms, 12/24

First Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Second Scripture Reading:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Eli'jah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Eli'jah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymns:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

[Refrain:] Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

5 O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill all the world with heaven's peace. (Refrain)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3 For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

5 Though an infant now we view him he will share his Father's throne, gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down. [Refrain]