

Fincastle Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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: "Behold, a Rose Breaks Into Bloom"

Brahms

Evelyn Renshaw, Organist

Welcome and Announcements:

Call to Worship: Philippians 4:4-7

(unison)

Let us worship God. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Invocation:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Hymn: #138

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Call to Confession:

(unison)

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth. If we confess our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong. Let us admit our sin before God.

Prayer of Confession:

(unison)

Almighty God,

You sent a star to guide mankind to the holy child Jesus. We confess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not searched for signs of your love in the world, or trusted good news to be good. We have failed to praise your Son's birth, and refused his peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, so we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord.

Silent Confession: **Amen**

Kyrie: #823

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon:

(unison)

Great God of Power,

We praise you for Jesus Christ, who came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the prophets' hope, the angels' song, for the birth in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you joined us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to you for your wonderful love. Glory to you, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, forever.

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

*Gloria Patri: #805

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer:

Hymn: #163

(v. 1 & 2)

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Prayer of Illumination:

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

Scripture Reading:

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Old Testament Reading

Luke 1:26-38

New Testament Reading

Sermon:

"Faithfulness As Firm As The Heavens"

The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min

*Profession of Faith:

The Apostles' Creed

Hymn: #163

(v. 3)

"Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming"

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude: "Toccata in F Major"

Buxtehude

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

Next Thursday, the 5th week of Advent- Christmas Eve: The service will be Facebook Live stream at 5 am on December 24. Since this is traditionally a candle lighting service, please have a candle in your home to light as David gives instructions to do so during the end of the service.

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:

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

¹ I will sing of thy steadfast love, O Lord, for ever; with my mouth I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations. ² For thy steadfast love was established for ever, thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens. ³ Thou hast said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant: ⁴ 'I will establish your descendants for ever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

¹⁹ Of old thou didst speak in a vision to thy faithful one, and say: "I have set the crown upon one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰ I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him; ²¹ so that my hand shall ever abide with him, my arm also shall strengthen him. ²² The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴ My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted. ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'Thou art my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

Second Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ³⁵ And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymns:

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Savior of the nations, come, show yourself the Virgin's son. Fill with wonder, all the earth, that our God chose such a birth.

5 Praise to you, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our new-born King! With the Father, Spirit, one, let your lasting kingdom come.

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo! how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung. It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

3 This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.