

Hymn: #51

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*

Charge

Sung Response #146, Verse 1 ( *“Joy to the World! The Lord is Come”*

Joy to the World! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Benediction

Postlude:

Please be seated for an extended piano/flute duet)

*“The Merry Gentlemen go Latin”*

based on *“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”*

Traditional/arr. Colin Kirkpatrick

# CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

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**The Worshiping Church Hymnal:** 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Carol Stream, IL —

**Service Music:** # 823 Kyrie, #805 Gloria Patri, #809 Doxology.

**Hymns:** #133 *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*; #136 *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*; #151 *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*, #146 *“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”*

**Pre-Service Music:** *God Rest Ye merry, Gentlemen”* (incorporating *“The Nutcracker”* by Tchaikovsky, 1892)/traditional/Arr. Larry Shackley, *“Christmas Ornaments”*/©2010, this arr., © 2015 Lorenz Publishing Company USA; *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* / Arr. Larry Shackley / Richard S. Willis, 1850 *“Christmas Ornaments”* (Ibid)

**Service Music:** Medley of Traditional Christmas Carols: *“Good King Wenceslas/O Come, All Ye Faithful”* / Arr. D. Gilliam / M. McKaskill *“Sacred Solos for Flute, Vol II”* © 1988 Mel Bay Publications, Inc. Pacific, MO; *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* / Arr. Larry Shackley/Gustav T. Holst, 1906 *“Christmas Ornaments”* (Ibid.); *“Largo from Xerxes/Serse”* / George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) *“Sacred solos for Flute, Vol II”* (Ibid.); *“the Merry Gentlemen go Latin”* based on *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”* / Traditional /Arr. Colin Kirkpatrick *“Christmas Adventures, A New Look at Three Favorite Carols”* © Colin Kirkpatrick 2018. Glyn Joseph Editions

# Service for the Lord's Day

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

“Medley of Traditional Christmas Carols”  
“Good King Wenceslas/O Come, All Ye Faithful  
Arr. D. Gilliam/M.McCaskill

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: (Isaiah 40:9)

One: Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

**Many: lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;**

**All: say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”**

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Calendar—Peace Sandy Gates& Lynne Bolton

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn: #133 (vs. 1,3,5)

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*



Call to Confession:

One: If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers  
to the truth.

**Many: If we confess our sins, God is just, and may be trusted to  
forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.**

**All: Let us confess our sins before God.**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

**God of the Future,**

**You are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We  
confess that we have not expected your kingdom. We have lived  
casual lives, and ignored your promised judgment. Judge us, O  
God, for we have been slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake  
of your faithful servant Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want  
and eagerly wait for.**

Silent Confession: **Amen**

Kyrie: Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have  
mercy upon us. #823

**Assurance of Pardon:**

One: Hear the Good News! This statement is completely reliable  
and should be universally accepted:

**Many: Christ Jesus entered the world to rescue sinners.**

**All: 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.**

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. #805

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer



Offering

Offertory Anthem

*“In the Bleak Midwinter”  
Arr. Larry Shackley/Gustav T. Hoist, 1906.*

Doxology: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #808  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication



Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading : (Pew bible pg. 619) Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn: #136 *“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

New Testament Reading: (Pew bible pg. 867) Mark 1:1-8



Sermon *“In Our Wilderness, God Calls Us to:  
“Prepare the Way of the Lord!” “*

Moment for Meditation *“Largo from Xerxes/Serse 1738”  
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)*

Service to Receive New Members, by Affirmation of Faith:

Danette Heinlein

Lori Turner

Bill and Teri Walker

Profession of Faith: #14 Apostles' Creed

(continued on back page)



## Concerns of the Church

### Prayer List:

**Members:** Nathalie Givens, Jennifer Kincaid, Meg and Bob Omer

**Friends and family of FPC:** Mary Black, Joyce Bolton Turbyfill (Lynne Bolton's Aunt), Mick Caudill (Danette's daughter's father-in-law), Neil Dunnivant (Pastor at FPC from 1992-2003), Janice Ford (Danette's sister), the family of Andy Haynes (Kip Burton's long-time friend), Tim Heinlein, Lynne Kessler, Sawyer Lucas and Jackson Hetzel (Valerie's grandsons), Laura Holt McCann, Hi Nicely, Mary Lee Reese, Ray White (Danette's brother-in-law).

## Announcements

***We are in a busy time of our year with lots of holidays and special events happening, so make sure you have everything you need on your calendar!***

- ◆ **Today is Pot Luck Sunday!** We welcome everyone to stay and fellowship!
- ◆ **Planned office hours for the week of 12/11— Monday 9:00am to 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 9:00am to 1:30pm, Friday 12:30 pm to 4:00pm**
- ◆ **Poinsettias!** Would you like to help decorate the sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of someone? Cost for each plant purchased is \$15. Today is the last day to sign up! The sign-up sheet is available on the table in the hallway, by the side door. Checks can be placed in the offering plate. Checks are made payable to FPC with **poinsettia in the memo** or they can be dropped off in the mail slot in the door or given to Danette in the office.
- ◆ **Update!!!** Due to your generosity, we have purchased **\$1000.00** in gift cards for Botetourt County Social Services for the Angel Tree Project!
- ◆ We Welcome Heather Mitchell this morning as a guest musician playing her flute along with Lori's piano, and providing us with glorious music to praise God! Heather began playing flute in the third grade studying the Suzuki method. Heather has many years of musical experience in directing vocal and handbell choirs, teaching private piano and flute lessons. in the va

## Announcements (continued)

- ◆ **Mark your calendar** for the next **Women's bible study** on Tuesday, December, 12 at 2:00PM. We will be studying Anna, The Faithful Witness, Chapter 7 in "*Twelve Extraordinary Women*", by John MacArthur and will meet at the Burton Home.
- ◆ **There is** Men's breakfast planned for December but there is one currently planned for January 13.
- ◆ On Sunday, December 17 we will have our traditional **Lessons and Carols** service.
- ◆ The **Christmas Joy Gift Offering** will be at the 12/24 Morning service. The Christmas Eve special offering will go to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (PCHH).
- ◆ **Fellowship:** We don't have anyone signed up on 12/17, 12/24 am service, or 12/31! **Please check your calendar and see if you can answer this calling!**
- ◆ If you're joining the **Back Street Bell Ringers**, make sure that you have practice on your calendar, every Sunday, between now and Christmas at 12:00 noon. Handbells will play Dec. 17 and Dec. 24 Eve.



## Calendar of Events:

**Sunday, December 10** **2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace**  
**Sunday School, 9:30 am**  
**Worship Service: 10:30**  
Duty Elders: Fred Coots and Bo Trumbo  
Fellowship: **Covered Dish Pot Luck**

**Tuesday, December 12**  
**Sunday, December 17** Women's Bible Study: Anna, at the Bolton Home  
**3rd Sunday of Advent: Joy**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
**Sunday School, 9:30 am**  
**Worship Service: 10:30**  
**Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon**  
Duty Elders: Jim Porter and Sandy Gates  
Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday, December 24** **4th Sunday of Advent: Love**  
**Sunday School, 9:30 am**  
**Worship Service: 10:30**  
**Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon**  
Duty Elders: Jim Porter and Caty Gates  
Fellowship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Offering: Christmas Joy Gift

**Sunday, December 24** **Christmas Eve Service**  
7:00 PM  
Special Offering: Presbyterian Children's Home of the High  
lands (PCCH)

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### **Clerk of Session: John Kilby**

*Class of 2023:* Lyn Burton, Hal Bailey,  
Sandy Gates

*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

## Session Committees

### **Property: Fred Coots, chairman**

*Jim Porter, Mike Goad, Paul Phillippe, Lyn and Kip Burton, Ed and Verna  
Shuey, Julia Richardson*

### **Fellowship: Jim Porter, chairman**

*John Kilby, Paul Phillippe, Bob Omer, Fred Coots*

### **Worship: Lynne Bolton, chairman**

*Patsy Dickerson, Betty Painter, Peggy Davis, Danette Heinlein*

### **Christian Education: Lyn Burton, chairman**

*Verna Shuey, Patsy Dickerson*

### **Finance: Hal Bailey, chairman**

*Mardee Kilby, Debbie Coots, Lynne Bolton*

### **Personnel: Bo Trumbo, chairman**

*Lynne Bolton*

### **Mission: Paul Phillippe, chairman**

*Lyn Burton, Debbie Coots*

### **Congregational Care: Cathy Goad, chairman**

*Peggy Davis*

### **Communications: Sandy Gates, chairman**

*Patsy Dickerson, Lynne Bolton, JoAnn Snowden, Peggy Davis*

### **Newsletter: Patsy Dickerson, editor**

*Anyone who has something to contribute*

### **Grant: Patsy Dickerson, chairman**

*Alan Brenner, Paul Phillippe, David Dickerson, Fred Coots, Bo Trumbo*

## *Fincastle Presbyterian Church*

**P.O. Box 144**

**Fincastle, VA 24090**

**fincastlepresbyterianchurch@gmail.com**

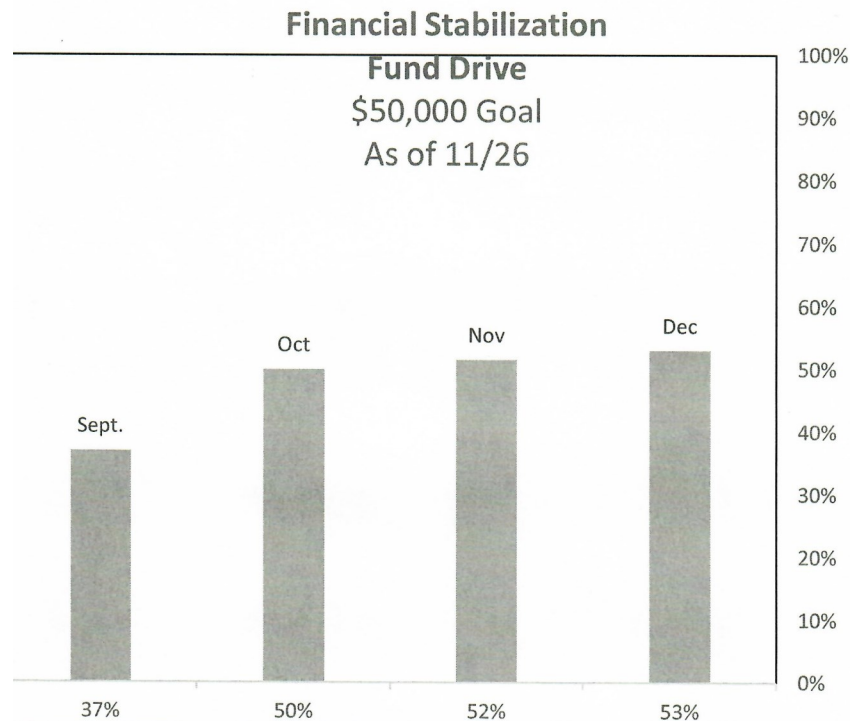
**(540) 473-2042**

**www.fincastlepresbyterian.org**

**The Rev. Dr. David Dickerson, D.Min.**

**From Letter to Congregation, dated: August 29,2023:** “The session has recommended and approved for our church to conduct a Financial Stabilization Fund Drive. This is over and beyond what we have pledged, tithed, or given as a free-will offering. This would provide additional operating funds.”

The graph Below, shows the status of the fund drive. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this church effort, allowing us to maintain our 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.



## *The Story behind:*

### *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Was originally used in the medieval church liturgy as a series of short musical statements that were sung for the week of evening prayer services just before Christmas Eve. Each of these statements greets the anticipated Messiah with one of the titles ascribed Him throughout the Old Testament: Wisdom, Emmanuel, The Lord of Might, The Rod of Jesse, Day spring, and the Key of David.

The haunting melody for the verses is also of ancient origin. It is based on one of the earliest forms of sacred music known—The Chant or Plain Song.



Source: *Amazing grace: 366 hymn Stories for Personal Devotions*, by Kenneth W. Osbeck. © 1990 by Kregel Publications, a division of Kregel, Inc., PO Box 2607, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

## Old Testament Reading

### Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has  
been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.  
3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for  
the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
4 Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.  
5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."  
6 A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.  
7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures forever."  
9 You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,<sup>[a]</sup>  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

## New Testament Reading

### Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way"—

<sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

## #133 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!

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
and drive away the shades of night,  
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
(Refrain)

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)

## #136 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh:  
awake and listen for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Let every heart be cleansed from sin,  
make straight the way for God within,  
and so prepare to be the home  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For you are our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,  
and make the fallen sinner stand;  
shine out, and let your light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 To you, O Christ, all praises be,  
whose advent sets your people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit evermore!

## #151 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain,  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

