

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

One: Christ came to us proclaiming peace:
peace to all those who are near, peace to all those
who are far away. In Christ's body we are made one.
The Lord be with us all.

One: O Lord, lift up our hearts.

Many: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Sentences of Institution

Partaking of the Bread and Cup

Here is Bread, Here is Wine

Prayer

Hymn: #135 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Charge and Benediction

Sung Response #677, Verse 1 (sing 2x) "Soon and Very Soon"

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King,

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Postlude: "Angels We have Heard on High"

(refrain #152)

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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: #170 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"; #297 "Spirit of the Living God"; #135 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus", #677 "Soon and Very Soon" ("Lift Every Voice and Sing II" Andrae Crouch © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP)

Service Music: "Mary's Little Boy Child" / Jester Hairston "The Worshiping Church Hymnal, *ibid.*; "The Holly and The Ivy" / Traditional English Carol / Public Domain; "Cradle to the Cross" / Keith M. wood, Buchanan, VA; "Here is Bread, Here is Wine" / "Faith We Sing", Graham Kendrick © 1992 MakeWay Music, admin. by Integrity's Hosanna! Music; "Angels We Have Heard on High #152 from "The Worshiping Church Hymnal (Ibid)

Service for the Lord's Day

1st Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

December 3, 2023 — 10:30 am (In Person & Live Streaming)

Chiming of the Hour
Prelude

"Mary's Little Boy Child"
Jester Hairston

Welcome and Announcements
Lighting of the 1st Advent Calendar Kip and Lyn Burton
Call to Worship: (#769, The Worshipping Church—A Hymnal)

One: We have one Lord, one God, one Savior.
Many: The Holy Spirit makes Christ real to us, binding us in one, as we share him together.
One: This is something we do eagerly.
Many: Christ welcomes us here.
One: This is something we do seriously.
Many: For this is the moment of greatest intimacy when we take the symbols of the body and blood of the risen Lord.
All: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the presence of the Lord."

Prayer of Invocation
Hymn: #170

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"



Call to Confession: (#459, ibid.)

One: We are imperfect.
Many: God is flawless.
One: We are in time.
Many: God is eternal.
One: We are vulnerable.
Many: God is unthreatened.
One: We see problems
Many: God has plans.

Prayer of Confession: (unison—continued on next page)
O God.

You work in and through and around and in spite of us, accomplishing your aims. By your grace you call us to take part

Prayer of Confession (continued)

...in your great plan.

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

Where we have failed help us to rebuild. Where we have retreated from the trial, help us to advance and succeed. Where we have sinned, forgive and restore us to new life.

Silent Confession: **Amen**

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

Assurance of Pardon:

One: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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



Offering

Offertory Anthem *"The Holly and The Ivy"*
Traditional English Carol

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

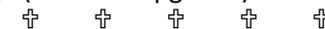


Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading : (Pew bible pg. 643) Isaiah 64:1-9

Hymn: #297 "Spirit of the Living God

New Testament Reading: (Pew bible pg. 882) Mark 13:24-37



Sermon "Keep Awake! Keep Working!"
(For the King Is Coming!)

Moment for Meditation *"Cradle to the Cross"*
Keith M. Wood Buchanan, VA Original Song by friend of David A.

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), the family of J.J. Campos (neighbors of the Porters), Arthur Cook (infant friend of Shueys), Neil Dunnivant (Pastor at FPC from 1992-2003), the family of John Hall (friend of the Porters), Tim & Danette Heinlein, Lynne Kessler, Sawyer Lucas and Jackson Hetzel (Valerie's grandsons), Laura Holt McCann, the family of Louise Massoud (friends of Sandy Gates) 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!

- ◆ **Planned office hours for the week of 12/3— Monday 9:00am to 1:00 pm, Tuesday 10:30am to 2:30pm; Thursday 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm (session), Friday 9:00 to noon.**
- ◆ **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. Last day to sign up is Sunday, Dec. 10. The sign-up sheet is available on the table in the hallway, by the side door, **today!** 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.
- ◆ **Thank you!** Due to your generosity, we have \$815.00 to go towards gift cards for Botetourt County Social Services for the Angel Tree Project!
- ◆ Our **Thanksgiving Special offering** which goes directly to Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. totaled \$358.00. Thank you for blessing this worthwhile organization.

Announcements (continued)

- ◆ Thursday, December 7, **The Session** will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm
- ◆ Sunday December 10, we will have **special flute/piano music** by guest musician, Heather Mitchell and Lori.
- ◆ On Sunday, December 10 we will have a **Pot-Luck Fellowship** after church!
- ◆ Mark your calendar for the next **Women's bible study** on Tuesday, December, 12 at 2:00PM. We will be studying Anna, Chapter 7 in "*Twelve Extraordinary Women*", by John MacArthur.
- ◆ **No Men's breakfast** planned for December.
- ◆ On Sunday, December 17 we will have our traditional **Lessons and Carols** service.
- ◆ The **Christmas Joy Gift Offering** will be held at our Christmas Eve service.
- ◆ **Attention all Duty Elders!** We have need of your services on several Sunday's in the month of December! Check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway! Also watch for the 1st half of 2024. It's time to start scheduling the new year!
- ◆ **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 3 1st Sunday of Advent: Hope
Communion Sunday
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon
Duty Elders: Lynne Bolton and _____
Fellowship: Patti Vari

Tuesday, December 5
Wednesday, December 6
Thursday, December 7

Sunday, December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent: Peace
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon
Duty Elders: _____ and Bo Trumbo
Fellowship: Covered Dish Pot Luck
Women's Bible Study: Anna

Tuesday, December 12
Sunday, December 10 3rd Sunday of Advent: Peace
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Worship Service: 10:30
Hand Bell Practice: 12:00 noon
Duty Elders: _____ and Bo Trumbo
Fellowship: Covered Dish Pot Luck

Sunday, December 17 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 _____
Fellowship: _____

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**Clerk of Session: John Kilby**

*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**

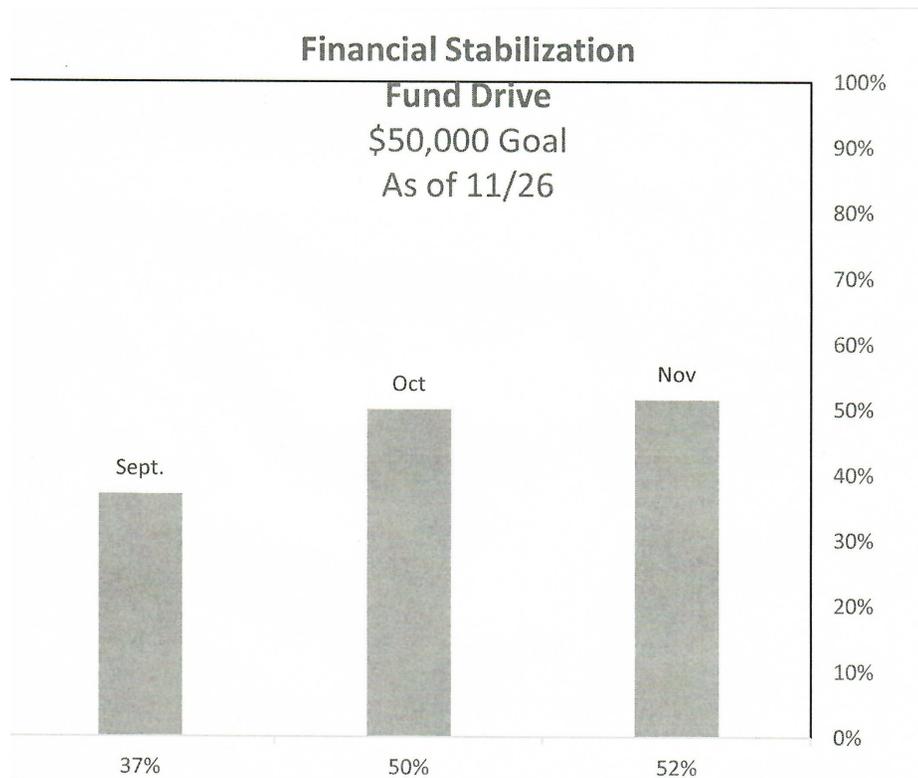
**(540) 473-2042**

**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:*

### *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

This hymn was written by Edmund Spears in 1849, a time preceding the Civil War when there was much tension over the question of slavery, the industrial revolution in the North and the gold rush in California. He wanted to emphasize the concept of peace with God, peace with our fellowmen, and peace within ourselves.

Spears graduated from Harvard Divinity School and then most of his life in small pastorates in the Eastern United States.



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 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup> O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at thy presence—  
<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make thy name known to thy adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at thy presence!  
<sup>3</sup> When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for,  
thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence.  
<sup>4</sup> From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides thee,  
who works for those who wait for him.  
<sup>5</sup> Thou meetest him that joyfully works righteousness,  
those that remember thee in thy ways.  
Behold, thou wast angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?  
<sup>6</sup> We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
<sup>7</sup> There is no one that calls upon thy name,  
that bestirs himself to take hold of thee;  
for thou hast hid thy face from us,  
and hast delivered us into the hand of our iniquities.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, thou art our Father;  
we are the clay, and thou art our potter;  
we are all the work of thy hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Be not exceedingly angry, O LORD,  
and remember not iniquity for ever.  
Behold, consider, we are all thy people.

## New Testament Reading

### Mark 13:24-37

<sup>24</sup> "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup> And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup> lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Watch."

## #170 It Came Upon A 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.

2 Still through the cloven skies they  
come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed 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.

## #297 Spirit of the Living God

1 Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me,  
mold me, fill me:  
Spirit of the living God,  
fall afresh on me.

2. Spirit of the living God  
move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind,  
make us one in love:  
Humble, caring, selfless, sharing—  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fill our lives with love.

## #135 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

