

## ***Concerns of the Church***

### **Prayer Concerns**

**Members:** Peggy Davis, Nathalie Givens, Hi Nicely, Meg and Bob Omer, Julia Richardson, the family of Jim Tenser. Hal and Cindy Bailey & family.

**Friends and family of FPC:** Grayson Alfano (Friend of Sandy Gates), Wyatt Bowman and family, Bill Ferrell (friend of Kip & Lyn Burton), Jake Ladenheim (Mary Beth Huwe's father), Lily and Alexis Porter, Mary Rae (organist at FUMC), Loretta Youngman (Kip Burton's cousin).



# ***Fincastle Presbyterian Church***

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

# Service for the Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 — 6:30 pm -Gather in Fellowship Hall

for Christmas Carols, Songs and cider  
6:55 pm—Sanctuary Gathering Music  
7:00 pm (In Person & Live Streaming)

## Gathering Music

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”* Back Street Ringers  
*“Simple Song of Joy”* Back Street Ringers  
*“The First Noel”* Alan Brenner-recorder & Lori Turner, guitar

## Chiming of the Hour

Prelude Rena Heslep  
*“Silent Night”*  
Back Street Ringers Franz Gruber/ Arr. F. Callahan

## Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:** (Isaiah 35: 3 & 4, adapted)

One: Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Many: **Say to those who are of a fearful heart,**

All: **“Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. . . . He will  
come and save you!”**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Patsy and David Dickerson

## Advent Wreath Response #126

*“O Come, Let Us Adore Him”*

**O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,**

**O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

## Children’s Time

Hymn: (see insert)

Patsy Dickerson  
*“The Friendly Beasts”*  
Trad French Carol

## Prayer of Invocation

\* Hymn: #173 (vs 1,4)  
Back Street Ringers

*“O Come All Ye Faithful”*  
Franz Gruber/ Arr. F. Callahan

## Call to Confession: (unison)

All: **Trusting in God’s promised mercies revealed in the birth of our  
Savior, and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sins.**

## Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Almighty God.

**You sent a star to guide all people to the holy child Jesus. We con-  
fess that we have not followed the light of your word. We have not  
searched for your love in the world, or trusted your 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:** Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have  
mercy upon us. #823

## Assurance of Pardon: (a prayer of Thanksgiving)

One: Great God of power: we praise you for Jesus Christ, who  
came to save us from our sins. We thank you for the  
prophet’s hope, the angel’s song, and for the birth in  
Bethlehem.

Many: **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;**

All: **through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, in  
whom our sins are forgiven! Amen.**

## Hymn #146: *“Joy to the World”*

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.

## Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

### Offering - Presbyterian Children’s Home of the Highlands (PCCH)

Offertory Anthem *“Mary Did You Know?”*  
Solo: Lynne Bolton Lowry/Greene

\* **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

**Special Music** *“Sing We Now of Christmas”*  
Back Street Ringers Trad. French Carol

## Prayer of Illumination

**Old Testament Reading :** (Pew bible pg. 593) Isaiah 9:2-7

**Hymns:** (1, 2 vs of each) #147 *“Away in a Manger”*  
(congregation remain seated) #152 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

**New Testament Reading:** (Pew bible pg. 889) Luke 2:1-20  
† † † † †

**Sermon:** *“What Do You Want For Christmas?”*

**Moment for Meditation:** *“In the Bleak Midwinter / What Child Is This?”*  
Cranham/Trad. English Melody

## A Candle Lighting Service:

A Reading: John 1:1-5, 10-18 Rev. Dr. David Dickerson  
Silent Night (vs 1, 3x) (by candlelight)  
Benediction

**Postlude:** *“Joy to the World”*

## #173 “O Come All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

[Refrain:]

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

## #147 “Away in a Manger”

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

## #152 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? [Refrain]

## #164 “Silent Night”

1 Silent night! holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and Child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.



## Old Testament Reading

### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> Thou hast multiplied the nation,  
thou hast increased its joy;  
they rejoice before thee  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government will be upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be called  
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,  
to establish it, and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and for evermore.  
The ++eal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## New Testament Reading

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. <sup>2</sup> This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; <sup>11</sup> for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

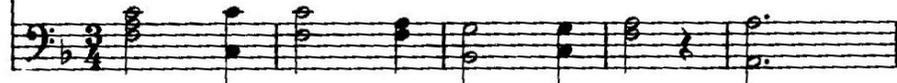
<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Unison



1. Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good, was hum - bly  
 2. "I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown, "I car - ried his  
 3. "I," said the cow, all white and red, "I gave him my  
 4. "I," said the sheep with curl - y horn, "I gave him my  
 5. "I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high, "I cooed him to  
 6. Thus all the beasts, by some good spell, in the sta - ble



born in a sta - ble rude, and the friend - ly beasts a -  
 moth - er up - hill and down, I car - ried his moth - er to  
 man - ger for his bed, I gave him hay to  
 wool for his blan - ket warm, he wore my coat on  
 sleep that he should not cry, we cooed him to sleep, my  
 dark were glad to tell of the gifts they gave Em -



round him stood, Je - sus, our broth - er, strong and good.  
 Beth - le - hem town; I," said the don - key, shag - gy and brown.  
 pil - low his head; I," said the cow, all white and red.  
 Christ - mas morn; I," said the sheep with curl - y horn.  
 mate and I; I," said the dove, from the raf - ters high.  
 man - u - el, the gifts they gave Em - man - u - el.



WORDS: 12th cent. French carol; trans. anon.; (Lk. 2:7)  
 MUSIC: Medieval French melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1987

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS  
 Irr.