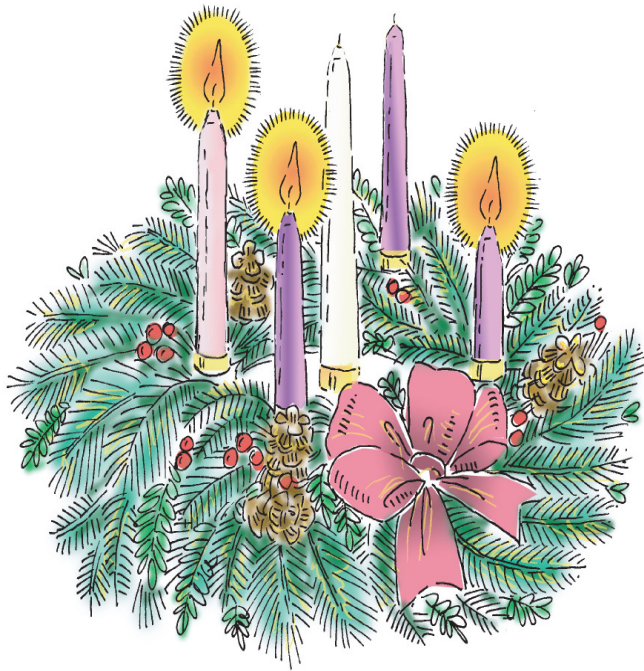


Third Sunday of Advent



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.

Antioch



First Presbyterian Church

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Founded 1792 -

*“For Christ in the Heart of Knoxville,”
the First Presbyterian Church seeks*

- *to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ*
- *to nurture those within its influence*
- *to serve spiritual and human needs*

Church School at 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship 9:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.

Worshipful Wednesday Evening Meal and Programs begin at 5:30 p.m.

Telephone (865) 546-2531 • Fax (865) 546-2533

E-mail: church@fpcknox.org

Web Site: www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

A Word of Welcome

To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are idle and look for service; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whosoever will come; this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of Jesus Christ her Lord.

ORDER OF WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 a.m.

December 11, 2011

❖THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

PRELUDE

Magnificat on the Fifth Tone - selected movements

Johann Pachelbel

...the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him!

Habakkuk 2:20

Worship begins with the Prelude. As we reverently enter the pews, please use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our devotion to Him who is the author and finisher of our faith.

INTROIT

Gaudete (Rejoice)

Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Voice 1: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."
- Voice 2: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)
- Voice 1: I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by the paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do and I will not forsake them. (Isaiah 42:16)
- Voice 2: The LORD says to his servant, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)
- Voice 1: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.
- All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN 8

Lift Up Your Heads

Truro

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(All)*

Our prayer this season, O Lord, is for the most meaningful Advent ever, yet we sadly confess to having done so little with so much. Forgive us, Lord, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins, for not submitting to your will. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live in the light of Christ's glory. *(Silent personal confession)*

MUSICAL RESPONSE *(All)* 10

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (verse 2 only)

Winchester New

**Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

†ASSURANCE OF PARDON

◆†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(All)* 23 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (refrain only)

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us, we are free to forgive each other. Therefore the congregation are invited to turn to each other, saying: "The peace of Christ be with you," responding with "And also with you."

❖THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD❖

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
(Pew Bible, OT Page 691)

Amber Morrish

SPECIAL TIME WITH THE CHILDREN: LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The congregation and choir will sing *When God Is a Child* as the children come forward. (See insert)

◆† (three-year-olds through first graders may leave for Children's Church.)

ANTHEM

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Handbell Ensemble

arr. J. Treisback

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

John 1:6-8, 19-28
(Pew Bible, NT Page 91)

SERMON

Not Another John

The Rev. Dr. William C. Pender

❖THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE❖

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*All*)

adapted from a poem, "First Coming", by Madeline L'Engle

God did not wait until the world was ready, until nations were at peace.

God came when the Heavens were unsteady and prisoners cried out for release.

God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime, turned water into wine.

God did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy God came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt. To a world like ours, of anguished shame,

God came and God's Light would not go out.

God came to a world which did not mesh; to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh, the maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, or to share our grief, to touch our pain,

God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

†HYMN OF RESPONSE 13

Prepare the Way

Bereden Vag För Herran

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY/PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP BOOKS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Magnificat in D Major

A. Herbert Brewer

†DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†HYMN 40

Joy to the World

Antioch

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Magnificat on the Fifth Tone - XXIII

Johann Pachelbel

†Those who are able may stand

◆Usbers will seat those who are waiting

NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICES

The Friendship Book is passed each Sunday for guests and members to sign. Guests' names and addresses are used to acknowledge your presence and welcome you to worship. In expressing what it means to be a *family of faith*, the church appreciates your willingness to share this information with us!



On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the pink candle, or Joy candle. This day takes its common name from the Latin, Gaudete, which means, "Rejoice!" The first words of the introit of this day's service: "Gaudete in Domino seper: iterum dico, gaudete" are from the book of Philippians and translate: "Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again, I say rejoice."

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

Officer in Charge: Gaines Pittenger
Deacon of the Week: Andy Freeman
Phone Monitor: Earl Hagler
Library Worker: Barbara Villadsen

Baker and Taker: Jean Cagle and Debbie and Jimmy Jones
Nursery Workers: LaVance Davis, Sarah Dugger and Anne Pittenger
Children's Church: Brianna Cook, Stephen Fox, Raymond McCord and Sharon Patton

LEADERS IN WORSHIP

Dr. William C. Pender Senior Pastor
Dr. Paul Rader Associate Pastor
Mr. J. Ashley Burell Organist/Choirmaster



Our Christmas Eve worship offerings will consist of a 5:00 p.m. Family Service in the Chapel and an 11:00 p.m. Candle-lighting and Communion service with Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary. The First Strings, an intergenerational ensemble, will play for the Family Service and the Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensemble will sing/ring for the 11:00 service. A Prelude of festive music will begin at 10:45 p.m.