

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCMartinsvilleVA>

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation 



Sermon based upon Matthew 11:2-11 and Psalm 146:5-10

Our Mission

"Share God's love, embrace our neighbors, nurture each other."

*The Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Advent*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

MINUET FOR MISSION

Nancy Moore

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Burton Family

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR sing *Christ, Be Our Light* (verse 3)

GTG 314

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Leader: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Leader: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Leader: Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Leader: Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

People: We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Leader: For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**People: Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait,
the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

CONGREGATION AND CHOIR sing

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

ADVENT PRAYER

Burton Family

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
 born to reign in us forever, 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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of majesty and glory,

We are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

PH 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Pastor

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (*Gloria Patri*)

GTG 580

***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.***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Psalm 146:5-104

Liturgist

(OT pg.581)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

How Quietly
Chancel Choir and soloist Gray Burton

Joel Raney

Second Reading:

Pastor

Matthew 11:2-11

(NT pg.11)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Public Domain

GTG 610

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!

The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease;
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life, and health, and peace.

Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.

To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

Coventry Carol

Arr. Karen Smith and David Snyder

Kat Walker, flute solo

Beth Chapman, piano accompanist

***The Doxology**

GTG 606

**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-**

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

***CLOSING HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City

GTG 140

Public Domain

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Pastor

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

God Be with You till We Meet Again

J. Rankin / W. Tomer

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

Welcome to our visitors today!

We are glad you are here and we hope you will join us for worship again. If you are interested in joining our church, there are three ways you may do so. They are letter of transfer from your church of previous membership, reaffirmation of faith if you have already been baptized; and baptism and affirmation of faith if you have not been baptized. If you are interested in joining, please ask our pastor, or one of our elders, for more details.

Need help hearing the service? Receivers connected to the sound system are available in the Narthex. Just ask an usher.

Please use the friendship register located in the pew to indicate your presence in worship. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please include your address, telephone number, and e-mail.

Let the children come to me: Children & Youth of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to actively participate in worship. For those desiring supportive materials, "sermon notes" for young children through older youth are available in the narthex. Clipboards and crayons are also available to take to your pew. Please return them to the narthex after the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Janet Fentress on the death of her niece, Erica Walker, on November 27th, 2025 in Roanoke, VA.

We welcome and thank Beth Chapman as our guest accompanist this morning.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of H. Grady Moore, Sr., Hester Stone Moore, H. Grady Moore, Jr., and Reed Stone Moore, by Henry (III) and Nancy Moore, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Colleen and James Dallas, and Raymond and Annie Lee Ferrell by Liz and Duke Ferrell and family.



Join us for a 2nd Cup. Come enjoy coffee and refreshments after the worship service each week. If you would like to help, please reach out to Gale and Christy Buck.

The SMITH RIVER SINGERS present *Merry & Bright ~ The Gift of Presence, the Pure Joy of Music* featuring the select ensemble Still Water, under the direction of Dr. Pamela Randall accompanied by Beth Chapman, piano plus strings and percussion orchestra on **Monday, December 15th at 7:00 PM** at the Galilean House of Worship (5078 A L Philpott Hwy, Martinsville). Doors open at 6:15 PM. Admission is free but an offering will be collected.



The Weekday School's Christmas Program is Thursday, December 18th at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. The kids will perform some songs and light refreshments will be available. All are welcome to attend. A fundraiser silent auction will also take place. If you would like to donate an item or contribute to a gourmet food basket, contact the WDS director, Nikki, at 1stpresbyterianwdsmartinsville@gmail.com

The Community Breakfast is Saturday, December 20th, serving from 8:00-9:30. Cooking needs to begin at 7:00. Mary Linker is team leader. Please contact her at 919-548-2452 if you are available to cook, serve or clean up. If you are not available for Saturday, come Friday morning to help set up and prepare fresh fruit. If you aren't available to help, come eat. We have some fun surprises for this breakfast.



Our Christmas Eve service is Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 PM and will be a candlelight celebration with communion and music.

Join us Sunday, December 28th at 10:00 AM for a service of *Lessons and Carols*.



The Christmas Joy Offering supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions as they face medical and emergency costs. The Offering also supports students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the church and the world. Look for Christmas Joy Offering envelopes in the church pews **now through December 24th**.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (Pork & Beans 15 oz.)** (Other needs: toilet paper, deodorant, bath soap, toothpaste, feminine products, dish and laundry detergent) when you do your grocery shopping. Both agencies depend on us for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of Erica Walker (niece of Janet Fentress), Family of John Peeples, Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Marge Dunn, Martin Ford, Marvin Hudson, Jamelle Waid Linker (Ed Linker's daughter-in-law), Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Leslie Naradikian (Marion Miller's daughter), Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Richard Komorowski (M&N Davis), Cecil Robbins, Sandra Roberts (sister of Kat Walker), Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, Bruce Thomas, , Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries, and families and areas devastated by severe weather.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Weekday School

School in Session

Lunch Buddies

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

6:00 PM

WDS Christmas Program and Silent Auction

Sunday, December 21

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 28

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Lesson and Carols

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
December 14	Ron Rebman	Randy and Martha Rollins
December 21	Martha Rollins	Billy and Sharon Kirby
December 24 Christmas Eve	Sam Smith	TBD
December 28	Sam Smith	Monty and Joan Montgomery
January 4	Randy Rollins	Ron Rebman, Judy King
January 11	Taylor Shank	Bill and Suzan Kirby
January 18	Joe Williams	Joe and Jerri DeVault
January 25	Gale Buck	Bob Wuestefeld, Barbara Duncan

If you cannot serve on the Sunday scheduled, please find a substitute.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.