

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday
December 7, 2025

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

We are a Matthew 25 Congregation



Sermon based upon Isaiah 40:1-11 and Romans 15:4-13

Our Mission

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

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Knighton/Shank Families

Christ, Be Our Light (verse 2)

GTG 314

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness,

People: but the darkness has not overcome it.

Leader: During Advent our weary souls seek God's daily strength.

People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Leader: We grow weary when fear overshadows faith.

People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Leader: We grow weary when destructive actions erupt in the world around us.

People: The Lord gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Leader: For all of us feeling weary this Advent season:

**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.**

Today we light two candles. The **first candle** illuminates patience in the areas of our lives where God has called us to wait. The **second candle** extends the promise of strength to all who feel weary and weak in the shadows of this world. As we continue our Advent journey, may our hope be kindled as the light grows brighter.

*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

Knighton/Shank Families

*OPENING HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Public Domain

GTG 129

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of the future,

You are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

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

We Are Forgiven

GTG 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

(repeat once)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

Liturgist

Romans 15:4-13

(NT pg.163)

TIME WITH THE YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor

ANTHEM

Still, Still, Still

Jack Schrader

Chancel Choir

Second Reading:

Pastor

Isaiah 40:1-11

(OT pg.667)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

GTG 100

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My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn;
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your Justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. [Refrain]

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. [Refrain]

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS & OURSELVES

Liturgist

Call to Offering

Offertory

***The Doxology**

PH 592

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-

SACREMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor

Invitation to Table

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You call all people to follow your paths of justice and peace, beating their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. In the light of your holy Word, we look for the day when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, or learn war anymore.

Therefore, with the entire company of heaven, and with your people on earth who live in this hope, we praise you and join in the never-ending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is Jesus Christ your Son, for he is Immanuel, God with us. Fulfilling the expectations of the prophets he healed the blind and the lame, cleansed the lepers, opened the ears of the deaf, raised the dead, and brought good news to the poor. Through his life, death, and resurrection you manifest your new covenant with humankind, and through the church of his disciples you give testimony to the power of your salvation for the world.

Therefore, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we give ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for the world as we declare:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, gathered here out of love for you, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let the bread we break be a true fellowship in the body of Christ. Let the cup we share be a true participation in the new covenant in his blood.
By your Spirit empower us to be Christ for the world, serving in his name until the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
Through your son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

Serving of the Great Feast

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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.

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 4 and 7)
Public Domain

GTG 88

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*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

We welcome and thank Marion Miller 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.

Also, join us today for a Soup and Sandwich lunch following 2nd Cup (before the movie begins).



Movie Matinee! TODAY at 12:30 PM in the fellowship hall. "Christmas In Mistletoe" is a heartwarming Rom-Com featuring Pastor Bea's daughter, Kara, in her first major film role. Oh, and popcorn will be available.



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 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 24.**

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.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

PRAYER CONCERNS

Family of John Peeples, Sue Benfield, Bud Buffkin, Anna Beth Burton (L. & D. Ferrell), 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.

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
December 7	Joe DeVault	Duke and Liz Ferrell
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

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

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 7

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:30 PM

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday, December 10

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Friday, December 12

4:00 PM

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Sunday, December 21

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM

Communion/2nd Sunday of Advent

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Movie Matinee with Lunch in Fellowship Hall

Weekday School

School in Session

Lunch Buddies

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

John Peeoples' Service at Forest Hills PC

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Handbell Rehearsal

Choir Rehearsal

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Second Cup in Fellowship Hall

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service