

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1901 Patrick Henry Avenue
Martinsville, Virginia

Second Sunday of Christmas
Communion Sunday
January 5, 2025

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



Sermon based upon Luke 2:21-40 and Jeremiah 31:7-14

Our Mission

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

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

PRELUDE

Cradle Song
Sanctuary Ringers

Michael E. Akers

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word,
sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of
all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their
expectations: Fulfill our desire in you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all
ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in peace and justice.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has
brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Longing for Light We Wait in Darkness (Christ Be Our Light)

GTG#314

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Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

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. [Refrain]

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

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor

God of grace and truth,

In Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Silent prayers of confession may be offered.

CONFESSATIONAL 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)*

PH#579

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:

Liturgist

Jeremiah 31:7-14

(OT pg.734)

CHOIR ANTHEM

Go, Tell it On the Mountain
Chancel Choir

R.Dwyer/J.Waller

Second Reading:

Luke 2:21-40

Pastor

(NT pg.59)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

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

Gentle Mary
Sanctuary Ringers

Michael E. Akers

***The Doxology**

GTG#607PH#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-**

Prayer of Dedication

Liturgist

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Pastor

STATEMENT OF INSTALLATION

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit.

This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord.

Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as ruling elders and as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Ordination is Christ's gift to the church, assuring that his ministry continues among us. Through ordination, God provides for acts of care and compassion in the world, for the ordering and governance of the church, for the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments.

Representing the one holy catholic and apostolic church, the session of First Presbyterian now installs Nancy, Judy, Johnny and Janet to active service in this congregation.

As God calls some to particular forms of ministry, God calls us all to bear gladly the yoke of Christ given in the covenant of Baptism.

Let us, therefore, reaffirm our baptismal vows, renouncing all that opposes God and God's rule and affirming the faith of the holy catholic church.

***(Congregation stands)**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Congregation sits)

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

Do you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scripture of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and will you be led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbor, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful Elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in the government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

Questions for the Congregation

Do we, the members of First Presbyterian Church, accept Nancy, Judy, Johnny and Janet as Ruling Elders, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**

Do we agree to pray for them, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION AND THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest+ sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? *[Refrain]*

SACREMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all times and places, we gather at your table of grace to recall your vision of hope for all people and for your world. Through Abraham and Sarah, you revealed your promise in the surprise of a child. Through your prophets, you called your people to make way for peace and justice. In Jesus, you revealed your way of forgiveness and love. Through the ever-circling year, your Word discloses to us—again and anew—your promise for the restoration of all creation.

As we gather to share this sign of hope and fulfillment, we remember Jesus, the child born into obscurity, amid fear and uncertainty. We remember the fragility of that revelation, as well as the hope he stirred and imagination he inspired, and we sing...

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs.1)

GTG#123

Public Domain

***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 all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.***

We remember Jesus, the One who blazed a new and risky path of extravagant generosity and of passionate concern: temple-shaker, world-maker, rule-breaker, risk-taker; the author and finisher of our faith.

We remember Jesus' self-giving love and the offer of himself for others, even those who gave him over to death, and we sing...

(vs.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.***

On that night, in the midst of great confusion and fear, Jesus broke bread with friends, saying, "This is my body, which I give for you and for all. When you do this, remember me." With a blessing, he took the cup and offered it to them saying: "This cup is God's covenant which is given for all. When you drink this, remember me."

(vs.3)

***Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!***

Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God. Bless us, these gifts, and what we do here, so that we might sing your song of love for your people and for your world.

God of All, we pray for your people. For those who are afraid and oppressed, may you give courage. For those suffering conflict and fear, may you bring peace. For those who long for food and water, may they be filled. For those who long for justice, may it be fulfilled.

We pray also for ourselves and our community. That those in hospital and in care feel your strength. That those who are alone and anxious feel you near. That those who are ill in body and in spirit be comforted. That our friends and family be blessed by healing and love.

Hear our prayers, O God,
and in your mercy, answer.

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

(vs.4)

***And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.***

Words of Institution
Serving of the Great Feast
Prayer after communion

*SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World
Public Domain

GTG#134

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Pastor

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Dan R. Edwards

*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

Church officers for the Class of 2027 will be installed during our worship service today.

The FPC Women's Circle Meeting is Monday, January 6th at King's Grant at 11:00 AM. Lynn Pritchett will be leading lesson 5, [Air Quality](#). If you are not a King's Grant resident, please sign in at the front desk and purchase your lunch ticket for \$12 upon arrival.

Handbell and Choir rehearsals are each Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar). If you are interested in joining, **handbells begin rehearsal at 5:30 PM** in the session room and the **choir meets at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. New folks are always welcome! Talk with Spencer if you have any questions.

Be sure to remember Southside Survivor Response Center (various household items and toiletries) and **Grace Network (juice 40-64 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 Nancy Parcell (Kim Boyd's mother), Anne Abercrombie, Barbara Adams, Sue Benfield, Jackie Bloxom (P. Stanley), Bud Buffkin, Evelyn Cannaday, Bob Chapman, Joel Christman (B. Stanley), April Cox (B. Tatum), Nancy Davis, Jerri, DeVault, Marge Dunn, Steve Edgerton, Teri Ferguson, Martin Ford, Juanita Griffin (J & B Williams), Daniel Handy, Marvin Hudson, Rita Lawson, Mary Manning, Jackie McLachlan, Maggie Pilson, Rusty Reaser, Susan Rosser, Becky Stone Sawyers (L. Pritchett), Dee Moore Smith, Susan C. Smith (M. Davis), Laura Stevens, Scott Stevens, C.J. Swinney (great-grandson of P. Minter), Bruce Thomas, Nathan Toms (A. Madonia), Carl Utley, James Walker, Tammy Tucker Wardinski, Jodi White (sister of P. Marshall/G. Chaney), persecuted Christians, military service men and women, missionaries, and all refugees and immigrants forced to flee their countries. Areas and families affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

First Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Church Staff

Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller

Rita Bateman, Office Manager

Vicky Blair, Bookkeeper

Spencer Koger, Director of Music

Peter Marshall, Worship Technology Coordinator

Weekday School

Carol Carter, Director

The Session

Moderator, Rev. Dr. Bea Miller Clerk, Liz Ferrell

Administration, Billy Kirby (2026)

Congregational Care and Fellowship, Susan Pilson (2026)

Facilities, Johnny Pinkard (2027)

Worship, Judy King (2027)/Janet Fentress (2026)

Christian Education, Monica Stevens (2025)

Stewardship, Nancy Moore (2027)

Mission and Outreach, Ron Rebman (2025)

Think Tank, Ann V. Madonia (2026)

Treasurer, Henry Moore

Trustees

Moderator, Duke Ferrell (2027),

Joe Williams (2027), Bill Kirby (2025), Gale Legg (2025)

Sharon Kirby (2026), Dru Rothrock (2026)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday – 9:30 – 2:00 PM

DATE	LITURGIST	USHERS/GREETERS
January 5	Liz Ferrell	Joe and Jerri DeVault
January 12	Janet Fentress	Ron Rebman, Judy King
January 19	Duke Ferrell	Monty and Joan Montgomery
January 26	Cindy Edgerton	Bill and Susan Kirby

**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, January 5

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Communion Sunday

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary/Ordination/Installation Service

Monday –Friday Weekday School

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM School in Session

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch Buddies in FH

Monday, January 6

11:00 AM

PW Circle Meeting at King's Grant

Wednesday, January 8

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Sunday, January 12

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, January 13

2:00 PM

Think Tank Meeting

Wednesday, January 15

5:30 PM

6:30 PM

Handbell Rehearsal ~ Session Room

Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary

Saturday, January 18

8:00-9:30 AM

Community Breakfast (cooking begins at 7:00 AM)

Sunday, January 19

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Sunday School

Worship in Sanctuary

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - WDS and Office Closed