

*First
Presbyterian
Church*

Whiteville,
North Carolina

*“To be a Light in our
Community Reflecting Christ’s
Love and Compassion...”*

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2016



Rev. Drs. Beverly and George
Thompson
Interim Co-Pastors

An Advent Meditation

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
An inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem bound
We can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars,
nor hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
Tending our sheep or our kingdoms,*

Ann Weems

Prelude Mary, Did You Know? K. Humphries
Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Dr. John and Ann Hall

Advent II - The Candle of Peace

The season of Advent continues. Four thousand years of waiting for the Messiah, commemorated by the lighting of four candles.

We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin.

Hope lives in us and will abide with us. Today we will light the Candle of Peace. This light, too, must brave great darkness.

In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under the threat of destruction, we light a fire called peace...not merely the absence of war, but peace for the fullness of blessing for all.

In the name of the Child born so long ago, with great hope, we light the Candle of Peace

* Hymn 88(vs 1-4) “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Call to Confession

*Let us confess our sin first in self-searching
silence*

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, forgive us we pray.

We are a people who fail to listen for the whisper of your call on our lives; perhaps we are more than a bit afraid of what we might hear.

O God, give us the humility and willingness of the young vulnerable Mary and all those others whose listening and following have led your people throughout the centuries.

Open our ears and our hearts to listen for your voice and to respond: “be it unto me according to your word,” that we may share the hope, love, joy and peace of your Son, our Savior, Amen.

Sung Response 121, verse 4

“ O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,

Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O Come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Assurance of God’s Grace

*Gloria Patri

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.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you all

And also with you.

Hearing the Word

Time with the Children

Prayer for Understanding

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“How Could Mary Know?”

The Reverend Dr. Beverly Thompson

Responding to the Word

***Affirming Our Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" 100

Chorus: 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.

* Doxology

**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.**

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Joyful Feast of the People of God

Prayer

Bearing and following the Word into the world

* Hymn 82

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

* Benediction and Blessing

* Benediction Response: "Christmas Isn't Christmas" *Choir and Congregation*

Christmas isn't Christmas 'till it happens in your heart.

Somewhere deep inside you is where Christmas really starts;

So give your heart to Jesus,

you'll discover when you do that it's Christmas, really Christmas for you.

**You are invited to stand if you are able*

Children's Team:

December 4 - Jennifer Williamson

Head Usher for December:

Fuller Royal

Communion Servers: Mandy Horne, Fuller Royal, Debbie Viets, Ben Kilpatrick - bread,
Sally Medford - juice

WELCOME! We welcome you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May today's worship open you to God. *Your entire family is welcome*, but we do offer a nursery for children birth to 3 years of age, and a "children's church" program for children **4 years old through 1st grade**. Both of these are located in the education building behind the sanctuary. Feel free to contact us at any time (642-2253).

Prayer Concerns: Bob High, Grace Palmer; Rhonda Scott; Nancy Thurston; Rita & R. L. Lewis; Geraldine Becker **Assisted Care:** Kenneth Smith; Phyllis Farley; Ellen Thurston; Charlene Hinnant, Anna Jane Collier **Friends:** Reta Hinson; Donna Parker; Carole Short; Mary Bair; Hollis Salyer; Joe Youngblood; Jean Turner; Ed Jackson; Shandell McPherson; Christy Stuckey; James George; Mary Cherry; Billie Joe Conrad; Shari Dutton; Rex Ros; Brenda Walters; Hobert Wicker; David Gore; Daphne McLeod; Gail Moye; Melinda Powell; Jerome McPherson; Nancy Wilson; Pat Allen; Benny McBride; Shelby Hodge; Frank Youngblood. ****Please notify the church office if you would like to add someone to the prayer list, and then again when the name may be removed.***

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday: NetworkX of Hope, 5:30 pm
Wednesday: Choir rehearsal, 6:00 pm
Thursday: Chicks with Sticks, 10:30 am

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4: Caroling and Hot Dog Supper 5:00pm
December 7: Congregational Life Meeting, 6:00pm
December 11: Moravian Love Feast, 7:00pm
December 12: Oratorio Concert, 7:30pm
December 14: Angel Tree Gifts Due

Poinsettia dedications may be made through Wednesday, December 7th. Each dedication is \$4. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Contact the church office: 910-642-2253 or karen@fpcwhiteville.org.

New Office Hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm, Monday through Friday.

We have the names of about 10 children left on our angel tree. Please pick a child's tag and write your name beside the tag number on the clipboard located beside the tree. Please make sure that your tag is attached to your gift. If you buy multiple gifts, please make sure that your gifts are tied together or have the tag ID number on them so we can make sure they go to the right child. All gifts are due no later than Dec. 14th to the church. You may leave them in the sanctuary or bring them to the church office.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Gene Ensley, who passed away 11/29/16. The service will be held at 11:00am, Monday 12/5/16, in the sanctuary.