

**1st Sunday of Christmas
ORDER OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.**

Sunday, January 1, 2023

Seasonal Color: White

WE GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “The First Noel” arr. Dan Forrest

(Please stand in body or spirit and let us join together in the Call to Worship)

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 60
Arise, shine; for your light has come; and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Lift up your eyes and look around; sons and daughters gather together, they come to you.
Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.
They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.
Let us worship God.

*PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION
Merciful God of deliverance, we praise you for sending Jesus as Light for the nations. He is the glory and radiance of your compassion and care. Our eyes behold the brightness of your promised righteousness; you illumine our darkness with the hope of your justice. As generations before us, we stand in awe of your splendor; we bow down to worship you, lifting our voices in praise of your goodness and giving heed to your instruction. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: “The First Nowell” GTG # 147

WE ARE RENEWED IN GRACE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:
Source of salvation and Bringer of the light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In him you have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care little for this planet, which you in goodness created for our habitation. In mercy forgive us, and help us to amend our ways. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs-3) GTG # 132
**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6 pg. 690

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES: Laura Sparks

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 pg. 2

SERMON: “The Coming of the Magi” Rev. David Roquemore

*HYMN: “We Three Kings of Orient Are” GTG #151

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by The Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*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,

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY:
“Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella” French carol/arr. Alfred V. Fedak

*DOXOLOGY: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 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
O God, as wise rulers of old brought gifts and worshiped a newly born baby, so also we bring offerings in praise of him whom you sent. The star that we follow is the light of Christ’s teachings, calling us to be faithful in service to all in need. Accept what we earn, the products of our creative energy and talent. Let this be the gold, frankincense, and myrrh that we bring. By our gifts may a sad and needy world be enriched and comforted. Amen.

WE LEAVE TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN: “As With Gladness Men of Old” GTG # 150

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE: “Good King Wenceslas” Trad./ Virgil Fox and Robert Hebble

(*Please stand in body or spirit)

Lay Leader for this morning is Scott Cranford.

Elder on Call this week is Charles Davis.

Copyright information for today’s service music:
“The First Noel”, arr. Dan Forrest (ASCAP), from *Christmas Illuminations: Eleven Carols transcribed for piano solo*, copyright © 2009, 2020 Beckenhorst Press, Inc.; “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”, music harm. copyright © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press); “Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”, from *An Advent Christmas Suite*, arr. Alfred V. Fedak, copyright © 1989, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.; all covered by OneLicense.net 701800-A.

“Good King Wenceslas”, trad. Tune “Piae Cantiones”, from *The Christmas Album*, edited or arranged by Virgil Fox in collaboration with Robert Hebble, copyright © 1980 Bradley Publications, div. of RBR Communications, Inc. New York, NY; CCS WORSHIPeast License # 15043.

“The First Nowell”, text and music English Carol; “Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”, traditional; “We Three Kings of Orient Are”, text and music John Henry Hopkins, Jr.; “As With Gladness Men of Old”, text William Chatterton Dix; music Conrad Kocher; all public domain.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS – THERE ARE NO STRANGERS WITHIN THIS SANCTUARY: If you would like more information about the church and our programs, please stop by the visitor’s table in the narthex.

1. You are in God’s House. We want you to feel God’s presence.
2. All around you are Christian people. They will want to shake your hand and greet you in the name of Christ. Won’t you meet them with a friendly smile? We would not have you leave this place without a warm welcome and a feeling that you want to come back.
3. Please sign the Friendship Book.
4. Those interested in membership information or who desire to join are asked to speak to David Roquemore, Pastor, call the church office, or check the Friendship Book.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH: (10:00am) Worship bags for children are located in the entryway. In addition, children (ages 3 yrs. old – 2nd grade) are welcome to stay with their families for the entire service, or they may attend B.L.A.S.T. Children’s Church following the *Time for Young Disciples*, when children will be led from the Sanctuary to our Children’s Church room and they will return to the sanctuary before the closing hymn.

THE PEACE CANDLE: The smaller, glass candle on the Communion table is a *peace candle*, and here is the candle’s story and meaning.

In 1986, a group of Americans attended a Russian Orthodox worship service. At the close of the service, an elderly woman pressed a three-ruble note into the hand of a Presbyterian pastor (only about \$5 in American dollars, but a significant gift for this elderly woman). The woman asked him to buy a *candle* with it, and light that candle in his church as a symbol for *peace*. That Presbyterian pastor purchased a *candle* with the money, placed it on the Communion table in his sanctuary, and lit it during each worship service. Then the church bought other candles, in glass containers, and sent them to other churches with the request that they be lit during their worship services, as a symbol of our common hope for *peace*.

These *peace candles* have since spread across our world and across denominations. Our congregation received our *peace candle* on Sunday, November 16th, 2014. And, we have shared a *candle* with our sister church of El Redentor in Guatemala. Together with sisters and brothers in Guatemala and around the world, we light our candles every time we worship to remind us to pray for peace in our lives, in our communities, and in our world.

THE MINISTERS
All Members of First Presbyterian Church

THE MINISTRY STAFF
Laura Sparks – Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry
lsparks@fpcnewton.com
Catherine C. Murdock – Music Director
Susan A. Strickland – Organist

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Kim J. Berry – Office Manager
kberry@fpcnewton.com
Jim Ten Kate - Treasurer
Bill Inscoc - Treasurer Emeritus

MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCH
Lawrence & Inge Sthreshley – Congo
Rev. Dr. John McCall - Taiwan



Class of 2022
Deward Clark (2)
Charles Davis (6)
Karen Mills (1)

THE SESSION
Class of 2023
Brenda Eckard (8)
Suzanne Rhinehart (4,6)
Randy Williams (7)

Class of 2024
Gary McDougal (5)
Charles Moody (2)
Amy Owensby (3)
Amy Yenderusiak (4)

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|---------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) Worship | (5) Christian Education |
| (2) Property | (6) Congregational Ministries |
| (3) Personnel | (7) Missions |
| (4) Finance | (8) Membership & Evangelism |

Suzanne Rhinehart - Clerk of Session

PASTOR
Rev. Dr. David Roquemore

Pastor David Roquemore may be reached at:
828-464-06485 (Church) droquemore@fpcnewton.com
704-325-3916 (Home) 717-512-2779 (Cell)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Serving the Newton-Conover area since 1858
Partners with Iglesia El Redentor, Guatemala

Sunday, January 1, 2023
1st Sunday of Christmas
10:00 a.m.



701 N. Main Avenue
(828) 464 – 0648

Newton, NC 28658
www.fpcnewton.org

MISSION STATEMENT:

Following Christ together in witness, love and service.