

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

GATHERING. . .

The Prelude

Christmas Medley
The Presbyterian Brass

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

Somebody's Talkin' About Jesus Taylor, arr
Covenant Choir

The Call To Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Prayer of Praise

Your Spirit is upon us, O God, because You have anointed us to bring Good News to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and to comfort all who mourn. This is all You doing and it is wonderful in our sight. As we pass through the portals of Your sanctuary, we come bringing our hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Be pleased with our worship as we bless Your Name. Glory to You the Eternal God -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, You love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing and every form of evil? You have given us the gift of Your Spirit; why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us? You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself; why, then, do we despise and ignore what we have heard from You? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? . . . (time for silent confession). . . Lord, forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as Your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in Whose Name we pray. Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

(from *Psalms 126*)

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!

Even if we have gone out in tears,

God brings us home shouting for joy. Believe the Good News in Christ.

Thanks be to God: we are forgiven! Amen.

*The Gloria Patri

p. 581 in the Hymnal

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ and exchange this ancient greeting with worshipers seated near you.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

p. 846 in the pew Bible

The Psalter Lesson: *Luke 1:46b-55*

p. 69 in the pew Bible

The Anthem

Who But the Lord Boersma/Courtney

*O come, Thou bright and morning star and bring us comfort from afar.
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light.
Who but the Lord can give the shadows light, can break into the dark,
draw morning from the night?*

*Who but the Lord will hear our cry and answer, "Here am I"?
Who but the Lord makes blinded eyes to see, brings music to the deaf,
sets the lonely captive free?*

*Who but the Lord will by His glory show the paths of peace?
O shine on us the brightness of Your face, to earth's remotest end,
every people, every race. O shine on us until to each is shown Your saving grace.
Who but the Lord can give the shadow light? None but the Lord.*

The Epistle Lesson: *I Thessalonians 5:16-24*

p. 250 in the pew Bible

The Anthem (11:00 a.m.)

I Would Have Been Surprised Too Schlosser
Carol Choir

A Moment With the Children

*The Hymn 804

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

The Gospel Lesson: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

p. 111 in the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Meditation

Eligible Receivers
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

*The *Apostles' Creed* p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer p. 35 in the Hymnal

The Service of Offering
The Gathering of Our Gifts
The Offertory

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication Doxology, p. 606 in the Hymnal

God of peace, in Christ You bring light to illumine the nations. He makes Your will known to all who believe. We come in response to his call to us, seeking to follow and fulfill his commands. Accept the gifts we offer as symbols of our commitment; sanctify them wholly, that they may be used as You desire. Mold us and use us as instruments of Your will. May all that we do be in accord with the Gospel of him You have sent. In Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

*The Hymn 852 *When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

*The Charge & Benediction

Rejoice always and pray without ceasing.
Give thanks to God, whatever your circumstances.

God has done great things for us.

We rejoice that we are part of God's family.

Listen for the word of the prophets.

Be open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God has come to us.

We have a mission to accomplish for God.

God is faithful and will stand by you.

You are valued in God's covenant community.

We are blessed with joy as we go out to serve.

We are thankful for the Good News we carry. Amen.

*Postlude



The Rev. Allen H. Fisher, Jr., *Pastor*

The Rev. Brittany Tamminga, *Associate Pastor*

E. Bruce Harvey, Jr., *Coordinator of Christian Education*

Mary Ann & Larry Casey, *Choirmasters*

Amy L. Shirk, *Organist*

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES 12/17-24

Today (12/17)

Worship Services, *S* 8:30 & 11am
Church School 9:45am
Sacred Dance, *U* 3:30pm
Cantate Party & Rehearsal, *The Caseys* 5pm
Youth Fellowship and Dinner 6pm

Monday (12/18)

PW Circle of Prayer, *CF* 12:30pm

Tuesday (12/19)

Men's Breakfast, *Bob Evans* 7:30am
Dolce Flutes, *CR* 6pm

Wednesday (12/20)

Meditation Group, *CP* 6:30pm

Thursday (12/21)

Handbells, *S* 6pm
Adult Choir, *CR* 7:30pm

Saturday (12/22)

Micah Breakfast, *FH* 6:30am

Sunday (12/24)

Worship Service, *S* 10am
Christmas Eve Worship, *S* 4:30, 7:30 & 11pm

Location Key:

CP: Church Parlor *MH*: Middle House
S: Sanctuary *CH*: Church House
EB: Education Building *CF*: Conference Room
U: Undercroft *FH*: Fellowship Hall
UCR: Choir Room in Ed. Building *CR*: Choir Room

Birthdays this Week

December

17. Gray Dameron, Mitchell Spinnanger
18. Jan Putnam, Mike Sidebotham
19. Carol Jackson, Schuyler Sweet
20. Jason Hole, Amanda Wimberly,
Marion Zimmermann
21. Mia Day, Bob Morecock, Edie Orazi
22. Allie Eisensmith, Holly Horn, Amy
Talmadge
23. Morgan Leimbach, Trang More,
Hannah Porter, Vicky Wilder, Laura
Zeranski
24. Bill Demarest, Michael Paul

Hospital Visitor 12/17-23

Carole Green, 287-8545

Lectionary readings for next

Sunday, December 24:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 ;
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

810 Princess Anne Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 373-7057 ~ FAX (540) 370-0210
fredericksburgpc.org

Stewards of God's good Earth.
Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled paper.

December 17, 2017

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

8:30 and 11:00 am

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us!

To aid you in our liturgy, we want to acquaint you with our following custom: In the *Lord's Prayer*, we use the words, "*Forgive us our debts... our debtors.*"

We encourage you to stand for singing, if you are able, as the organ sounds the first note of introduction. When appropriate to the hymn, the organist and choir will lead the congregation in singing "*Amen.*"

Assistive listening devices (amplified earphones and telecoilneckloops), and **large-print bulletins** are available from the ushers.

Child care is provided in the Education Building for infants through kindergarteners.

All worshipers are encouraged to sign the Attendance/Friendship pad, greet your friends, and welcome visitors.

The flowers today are given by Carole Green to the glory of God in memory of G. Graham Green III, loving husband, father, and grandfather. A special smile, a special face, in our hearts, a special place. Memories are a gift to treasure. Ours of you will last forever.

Capsule of Concern: Carole Fariss, Mary Lou Greenlaw, Nancy Hansen, Mary Jane King, Betty Merrill, Charlotte Mims, John Nolan, Bob Snow, Dick Szymanski, Susie Techlin, Frank Turnage

Our heartfelt **Christian love and sympathies** are extended to Karen and Missy Dodson on the death James, husband and father, who died on December 12, 2017.

Thanks to today's Advent readers and candle lighter, members of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade Church School class.

Service Attendants

Liturgist
Tom Wimberly

8:30 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Trudy McNatt

Greeters
Linda Benn, Harry & Gerry Smart

Ushers
David & Sarah Wright, Paul & Mary Kukla

Elevator Assistant
Richard Harrison

11:00 AM
Sanctuary Guild
Maryann Piersall

Greeters
Erik & Macon Fino,
Shirley Eye

Ushers
Dave & Meg Bohmke, Barry & Della Hall

Elevator Assistant
Gary Vaughn

Nursery Attendants
8:30 & 11:00 services
Margaret Rowe, Laura Chewning, Katie Fidler, Libby Humes

The **Women's Bible study** is now on Christmas break and will resume on January 4, 2018.

Church School will be on regular schedule today. We will take a break on December 24 & 31.

The Church School brunch is Sunday, January 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Fellowship - *Middle School and High School groups* will have their annual White Elephant gift exchange tonight. Spend no more than \$5, or bring something from around the house. Wrap the gift and come ready for fun! Next week: *No Youth Fellowship activities*.

The Fellowship Committee invites you to plan for **Suppers for 7** (or sometimes 6 or 8). These small groupings of fellow church members gather to share a meal and enjoy fellowship with old and new friends. To be in a group that will be announced the end of January, contact Pastor Tamminga, 540-373-7057 (btamminga@fredericksburgpc.org). If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Fellowship Committee: Matt Bohmke, Kurt Chewning, Ben Fidler, Patricia Langfitt, Sharon Moser, Adam Nelen, Carole Nelen, Beth Valasko, Sarah Wright, Laura Zeranski, and Pastor Tamminga.

Wrapped Angel Gifts are due back to the church today, with the angel card attached.

The **Empty Nesters** will make **Micah lunches** today, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

The **Prime Timers Fellowship Group** will gather for lunch at Vinny's Italian Grill & Pizzeria, 11105 Leavells Road, on Wednesday, January 3, at 11:45 a.m. Vinny's is located across the street from Battlefield Elementary & Middle Schools. We will be in a private room and order from the menu. Please RSVP to Harry or Gerry Smart, 786-6170, by Sunday, December 31.

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a **Trivia Night and Potluck** on Saturday, January 27, in the Fellowship Hall. All ages will enjoy this terrific event! Please bring a bowl-food to share. Supper will begin at 5:00 p.m., and the first round of trivia will begin at 5:30.

The Empty Nesters are planning another event of conversation, games, appetizers, and desserts. Please bring your own beverage along with an appetizer or dessert to share. A bonfire and s'mores are also on the agenda! The fun happens between 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. on January 20, at the Simms' residence, [12092 Mount Rose Drive, King George, VA](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12092+Mount+Rose+Drive,+King+George,+VA). Let Lynn know by phone, [540-775-2763](tel:540-775-2763), or email, ljsimms1209@gmail.com, if you plan on coming.

The **Christmas Joy Offering**, which started in the 1930s, is one of four PC (USA) special offerings. It provides support to retired and disabled church professionals who need supplemented income and assists Presbyterian-related schools and colleges by helping to provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. You will find offering envelopes in the pews during Advent and in your church offering envelope box. Please pray for this offering and we encourage you to give to it.

Are you looking for the perfect gift for the person who has everything? Check out the **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**. Some ideas: farming tools, \$10; jerry cans, \$25; supplies for displaced students, \$30. Your gift will make a difference to people around the world. Look for catalogs during the coffee time this morning. Please return your order to Karen Johnson or the church office today.

Our church will serve the **Micah breakfast** on Saturday, December 30, as well as host the breakfast in our Fellowship Hall. Kaci LeFebre will prepare the food ahead of time. Volunteers will heat the food, serve, and clean up. We ask you to be here at 6:45 a.m. to be ready to serve food starting at 7:30 a.m. If you would like to assist, please stop at the table outside the Sanctuary or contact Bruce at bharvey@ferdericksburgpc.org.

Homeless Memorial Day - Join us on December 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Market Square on the first day of winter and longest night of the year to remember our neighbors in need who have passed away in 2017. Many have gone without funerals or family to grieve. The Service is sponsored by Micah Ministries and Fredericksburg Interfaith Leaders.

The churches of Fredericksburg have a great need for members to **volunteer** through their collaborative ministry, **Micah**. You can choose to work at the front desk in the Housing Stabilization Center, bus tables, serve or host/hostess in the new Micah Café, pick up and deliver household items for the Furniture "Bank," provide Respite Dinners, or be on call to help with various maintenance projects. To learn more about any of these volunteer opportunities, visit the table outside the Sanctuary after church or call the Micah Hospitality Center at 540-479-4116. With your help, *neighbors find a home here*.

Offering Envelopes will be available in the Education Building Lobby beginning Sunday, December 24. If you have not had envelopes in the past and would like them, contact the church office, 540-373-7057, (cjforsing@fredericksburgpc.org)



Sunday, December 24

10:00 a.m. ~ Christmas Eve Day Worship ~ Hymns and Anthems by the Adult Choir

4:30 p.m. Family ~ The Christmas Story and Carols ~ Music by Children's choirs

7:30 p.m. Festive Communion ~ Music by Adult Choir

11:00 p.m. Contemplative Communion ~ Music by Cantate

Sunday, December 31

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. ~ Worship (Church School on break)

The Presbyterian Church Poinsettia Memorials & Honoraria Christmas 2017



***The Poinsettias at the front of the Sanctuary are
given by:***

Ed & Joyce Allison
Connie Barnes
Linda & Porter Blakemore
Jim & Heather Carelock
Larry & Mary Ann Casey
Mary Lou Cramer
Joan Darby
Steve & Susie Davis
Mike & Carole Fariss
Lee & Jeannette Gibbons
Wayne & Felicia Hibbeler
Lou & Jane Illi
Karen & David Johnson
David & Doris Johnson
Jo Anne Kinnamon
Mike & Susie Kuliasha

Karla & Tom Lewis
The Lewis family
Jordan & Charlie McDaniel
Gail McGhee
Laura Miller
Debra H. Myers
The Nix family
Jerry & Trina Parsons
The Rabatin family
Nancy & Bill Raines
Lynn & Preston Simms
Lydia Avery Stevick
Dick & Mary Szymanski
Thankful Participant
Gary & Doreen Vaughn
Nancy & Don Wilson

in honor of:

Loved Ones
her wonderful grandchildren, Jack Barnes and Lena, Finian & Scarlett Joel
Jean & Albert Lemanski
their children, Jay & Anna, and Jeanne
the musicians of The Presbyterian Church
precious grandkids, Bera, Strider, and Kai
her dear grandchildren, Sophia & Alec
Davis & Sophie Taylor, grandkids
Hal Price
their children, Connie & Clifton
Herbert Rudolph
their sons and grandson, Robert, David & Patrick
Bjorn, Tara, Marta and Selena
their 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild
Jack & Billie Plank
their grandchildren, Nikita & Anastasia Kuliasha;
Andrea Kuliasha & Chris Jones and their wedding in June 2018
Sita, John and Jacob, their grandchildren
our friends at Humankind
their grandparents, Mary Wynn & Charlie McDaniel; Polly & Ed Horger
her family and this Church's ministry
daughter, Paulla Loder and Rob, Lexie and Jamie
her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren
their daughters, Jessica and Courtney Nix
their grandchildren, Sophie and Johnny Ellis
Billie & Jack Plank
their mothers, Louise Smith and Evelyn Raines
their grandchildren, James and Madelyn Freeman
her brother, Frank B. Avery, Jr.
their children & spouses and grandchildren; and God's blessings
the Community Dinner kitchen and floor crew
the Women's Bible study and Men's Breakfast groups
their granddaughters, Erin, Rachel & Laura

Given by:

Ed & Joyce Allison
Dick & Judy Balch
Linda Benn
Linda & Porter Blakemore
George G. Cralle, Jr.
Mary Lou Cramer
Genie & Steve Cunningham
Al & Jan Erkert
Mike & Carole Fariss
Harry & Joanne Farley
Erik, Macon, Alex & Grace Fino
Kimberly & Scott Fischer
The Richard Garnett family
The Gibbons family
Mike & Michelle Gibson
Mary K. Greenlaw
Andrew, Anna, James
& Elizabeth Grossnickle
Wayne & Felicia Hibbeler
Gary & Grace Hynden
Lou & Jane Illi
Jane Johnson, Laura Jane
& Leslie Ann
Gale Kehoe
Jo Anne Kinnamon
Sean Liverman & Susie Howell
Milton & Trudy McNatt
Linda Miller
Debra H. Myers
Don, Roxanne, Barbara Katrina
& Bailey Nance
The Nix family
Jerry & Trina Parsons
Gary C. Shockey
Lydia Avery Stevick
Earl & Opal Stroup
Linda Sweet
The Talmadge family
Tim & Anne Tarzier
Bill & Marla Tischler
The Toler family
Cara Hynden Wainwright
Gary & Isla Wainwright
Jerry Zekert & Sherman Brown

in memory of:

their parents
their parents, Richard & Elizabeth Balch; Thomas & Virginia Thornberry
Bob Benn, Luanne Mislin
Mary & Byron Blakemore
Mr. & Mrs. George G. Cralle, Sr.; Alexander B. Cralle
Melissa Mansfield - loving wife, mother & teacher
William & Mary Karl, William Cunningham
Harriett & Frank Cross, Chris & Herb Erkert
Alven & Hetty Fariss, Beatrice Phlegar, Rita Price
their parents, Ida & Lawrence P. Smith; Ruth & Harry D. Farley, Sr.
Jean Fino, Bette Bahen
William Fischer and Sharon Lackey
Ann S. Garnett
Clifton & Olyve Gibbons; John & Jeannette Harris
Lloyd & Becky Gibson, Mike's parents
Wilson Greenlaw

Larry Grossnickle, Esther Grossnickle, George McDowell, Mabel Pleasant
Charles & Elizabeth Hibbeler
their beloved son, Michael Burton Hynden
their parents, Louis & Nellie Illi; Wyley & Loena Via

Eleanor Bailey
her parents, Warren & Geraldine Cornell
Bill Kinnamon
Paul & David Liverman, Paul & Ruth Nauman
Charles & Madeleine McNatt
William Miller
all their departed loved ones

Milton & Barbara Nance
John & Barbara Nix, J. Robert & Jacqueline Morrison and Myles Trump Nix
Jerry's parents, Jerry & Opal Parsons, Sr.; Trina's father, C.W. Kegley
Otto & Lillian Riener; Nick & Florence Shockey
her parents, Frank & Vinola Avery; her sisters, Jane, Anne, Emily, Nell, and Ruth
their parents
Jauncey
Carole Talmadge
Jim & Evelyn Petree; Robert & Olga Tarzier
Marla's parents, Erma & Lamer Heine
Jack & Dorothy Toler; Bill & Jane Fuller
her brother, Michael Burton Hynden
their much loved uncle, Michael Burton Hynden
George Brown, John & Eleanor Zekert; John & Gracie Justus

