



## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 20, 2020*

### *Order of Worship*

#### **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

##### PRELUDE

##### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Sanctified Art*

I knew joy, but when I heard the laugh of a child,  
Suddenly, joy was overflowing.  
I knew love, but when you held my hand,  
Suddenly, love was overflowing.  
I knew God, but when you showed me grace,  
when you forgave me,  
when you loved me,  
when you raised me,  
Suddenly, God was overflowing.  
So, let us worship Holy God together  
as a reminder that God is here and we are never alone.  
This is community. This is the body of Christ. Welcome home.

##### CANDLE LIGHTING: The Candle of Love

Doug Hicks, Catherine Bagwell, Noah & Ada

##### CALL TO CONFESSION

##### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Sanctified Art*

God of Good News,  
You say to me, "You are highly favored," but I struggle to see how that  
could be.  
You say to me, "Do not be afraid," but I am afraid all the time.  
You say to me, "Even the impossible is possible, just look at Elizabeth!"  
But hope slips through my hands like water.  
The impossible still feels impossible.  
So today I pray,  
Today we pray:

Teach us to sing like Mary.  
Teach us to laugh like Elizabeth.  
Teach us to trust like the angels.  
Forgive us when we can only do one at a time, or none at all.  
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *PROCLAIMING THE WORD*

THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Kimmy Briggs

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

SERMON *Those Who Dream: Are Not Alone* Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane

## *RESPONDING TO THE WORD*

HYMN 110

*Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Sanctified Art

We believe that this world is hard—  
Harder than it has to be.  
When the world falls apart around us,  
We believe in listening for the angels that say, “Do not be afraid,”  
And in seeking out the Elizabeths in our lives—  
Those who laugh with joy at our arrival  
And throw open the doors to their homes.  
We believe that healthy relationships can offer healing,  
Through the laughter of cousins,  
The joy shared between siblings,  
And the home found in partnership.  
Therefore, we believe in church families,  
In chosen families,  
And in the love that extends beyond family.  
We believe in friendships,  
In neighbors,  
And in leaning on each other when the going gets tough.  
We believe in the Triune God—  
Lover, Beloved, and Love itself—  
Inherently relational, always connected, and never alone.  
We believe that that same belovedness exists for us.  
We believe that we are loved and claimed,  
Never alone.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

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 OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy one, for you nothing is impossible. You came to dwell with Mary. Dwell with us now. May the gifts we bring be good news for all peoples. Remind us we are not alone. Make us God-bearers and a Christmas people.

***BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD  
INTO THE WORLD***

HYMN 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Sanctuary Choir Video

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Joy to the World*

J. Wayne Kerr

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Announcements, prayer concerns and ways to give are on the following pages.



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Year-end Giving**

Please help us finish the year on a positive financial note by ensuring your pledged commitment is fulfilled an/or making any other donation by the end of the year! To show on your 2019 Giving Statement (and be claimed on your 2019 tax return), donations: All monies must be received or be postmarked by Dec. 31st (office closes at noon).

***Thank you for your faithful stewardship!***



## We thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian Church of Covington!

You are invited to "Text to Give"  
 your offering: Text to: 73256  
 Enter FPCCOV as your message, click to send  
 Or use this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/FPCCOVtext>

**Giving by Text:** Send to: **73256** Text message should say **FPCCOV** (then press send) to give using your text messaging. If you made a pledge for 2020, choose "2020 Pledge" as the fund. Then the system will walk you through entering your bank or credit card information. If you did not make a pledge you can choose another fund such as "Non-pledge"; or "Thornwell" "Love Gift", etc. There is a drop-down menu you can scroll through to choose a fund. You can use this link for on-line giving: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyterianChurchCov/give/nov>

### In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ◆ Guy McGiboney-Covid
- ◆ Tamra, Mike & Tim Crews-Covid 19 (daughter of Jack Wheeler & family)
- ◆ Barbara Crews-health issue
- ◆ Jane Parker-recovering from fall
- ◆ Carolyn Watson-recent fall
- ◆ Phyllis Pruner-recovering from eye surgery
- ◆ McKenna Grace Boston-whooping cough at Egleston (newborn daughter of Paige Boston, Paige grew up at FPC)
- ◆ Mitchell Wheeler-cancer (nephew of Jack & Miriam Wheeler)
- ◆ Martha Young-home recovering from Covid-19 (grandmother of Cotton Young)
- ◆ David Hunter-stage 4 cancer, prayers for his wife Martha, and daughters, Grace and Hannah (Jonny Atkin's uncle)
- ◆ Betty Lunsford-recovering at home
- ◆ Roger Tingler-surgery on hip incision
- ◆ Sarita Pope-breast cancer (mother-in-law of Elizabeth Martin Pope)
- ◆ Nancy Smith-cancer treatments (daughter of Sandy & Betsy Morehouse)
- ◆ Bill Cobham-ongoing health issues
- ◆ Ginny Elliott-rehab following fall (step-mother of Aubrey Evans)
- ◆ Beverly Maddox-caring for husband who has leukemia (friend of Jean Elder)
- ◆ Gena McLendon-chemotherapy (friend of Doug & Sherri Bolton)
- ◆ Sharon Walton-cancer surgery (friend of Patti Lanford)
- ◆ Karen Moss-breast cancer
- ◆ Carter Mackenzie-neck injury (son of Julie & Jeff Mackenzie)
- ◆ Karen Lein Kaasa-home health care (sister-in-law of Julie MacKenzie)
- ◆ Tom Bass-cancer treatment & dialysis (friend of Beth & Danny Vining)
- ◆ Wilford Reed-health issues (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ◆ Bob Darby-kidney problems (friend of Jeff MacKenzie)
- ◆ Joyce Williams-Alzheimer's, breast cancer treatment (sister of Danny Vining)
- ◆ Peter Milner-cancer surgery (nephew of Day & Larry Kennon)
- ◆ Angela Gregory-cancer treatment, in Scotland (sister of Dave Gregory)
- ◆ Brandon Massey-blood cancer (grandson of Chuck and Sherry Brasher)
- ◆ Carol Baynes-cancer (friend of Phyllis Yoder)
- ◆ Sophia Hawley-cystic fibrosis

#### Independent and Assisted Living

- ◆ Travis Moss-Pruitt Healthcare
- ◆ Penny Blakeney-home
- ◆ Julia Brubaker-Benton House
- ◆ Jean Elder-currently in Florida with her daughter (address available from church office)
- ◆ Dot Fincher-Merryvale
- ◆ Guy McGiboney-Merryvale
- ◆ Betty Robinson-Merryvale
- ◆ Louise White-Merryvale
- ◆ Jerry McGaffney-Merryvale

#### Military Service

- ◆ Koen Ardis-Navy
- ◆ Lee Scarborough-Army



#### Condolences

We send our prayers to the family of **Tim Blankenship**, who passed away this week. He was the son of the late **Elmer and Maxine Blankenship** and brother of **Trent**.

We extend our sympathy and prayers for **Dan Walden** and his family in the death of his mother, **Jackie Walden**, who died on December 7th.

#### Praises!

Thanks to all who gave so generously by donating Christmas gifts from our Angel Trees this year! The gifts have been delivered to the recipients. Thanks to the Witness Team who organized this effort.

#### Updated Procedure! for Prayer Requests

All prayer requests should be sent to: [admin@fpccov.org](mailto:admin@fpccov.org) or by clicking the "Email Peni" button at the bottom of the Enews prayer list. Please specify if you want the request in the bulletin or for pastors only, or only the confidential prayer circle. You must click to submit or we won't receive the request.

#### Worship Notes

- ◆ Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: [www.fpccov.org](http://www.fpccov.org).
- ◆ Music printed (and streamed) in our bulletins are covered by licenses authorizing their use. Licenses are from: CCLI #11379886 and One License # A-728738.

*Thanks to those  
serving us today*

Dan Walden,  
Phil Anderson, Brad Phillips, &  
Ken Walker

# Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

## This Week at FPC

### Sunday, December 20 Advent 4

9:45 Adult Sunday School (link below)  
 11:00 Worship Service  
 (Pre-recorded, link will be provided the in Enews that week)  
 12:00 Youth Sunday School on Zoom  
 (link below)

### Sunday, December 27 Christmas 1

11:00 Worship Service  
 (Pre-recorded, link will be provided the in Enews that week)

## Christian Education

**Children:** Sunday School continues with Dan and Perri! Videos will be posted to Facebook on Sunday morning and will be available on our [website](#).

**Youth:** Join Pam, Jim and Kimmy at 12:00pm for Sunday School on Zoom! Contact [Kimmy](#) if you have any questions and [click here](#) to join Zoom.

**Adults:** Join us on Zoom at 9:45am for Sunday School! This is a casual time of reflecting on Scripture together. Each week will be a stand alone conversation, so if you miss a week, make plans to join the following week! [Click here](#) to join.

## Special Services for Advent & Christmas Eve

**Longest Night** December 21, 6:30pm pre-recorded. You will find the link in our weekly Enews sent December 17th).

**Have on hand:** a piece of cloth that you can tear, a marker to write on the fabric and a candle to light.

This brief service of worship is a time to hold space for the needed collective breath of lament and hope as a church family. The service will be in-person and available on Facebook live. There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together for the Longest Night, a night around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. It's a time to come together for prayers and laments, to mourn the losses and griefs of the year, to let the tears flow for the hurting places in our own lives, as well as for our country and our world. Known also as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth." (A Sanctified Art, LLC)



**Christmas Eve** 6:00pm will be pre-recorded. You will find the link in our weekly Enews. You may want to have on hand candles you can light during the singing of "Silent Night."

## Volunteers Urgently Needed for the First United Methodist Food Pantry

Please see the weekly e-news for specific instructions about who can volunteer and the link to sign up.

### Interested in Joining the Church?

If you're interested in joining the FPC church family, you are welcome to reach out to Neeley. You can enjoy a virtual coffee together and discuss what it means to become a member.

To set a date:

by email: [neeley@fpccov.org](mailto:neeley@fpccov.org);

By phone: 770-786-7321, please leave a message with Peni Kehoe.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Neeley Rentz Lane  
 Kimmy Briggs

Senior Pastor  
 Director of  
 Family Ministries  
 Church Administrator

Peni Kehoe

Krista Firkus  
 Alice Walker

Danielle Schubert

Music Director  
 CAGO, AAGO  
 Organist/Ambassador Choir  
 Nursery

## MEMBERS OF SESSION

### Class of 2020

Doug Bolton  
 Stan Hall  
 Cindy Moon  
 Bob Tabb

### Class of 2021

Jay Lanners  
 Warren Liem  
 Pam Stillerman  
 Donna Weesner  
 Cy Wolverton

### Class of 2022

Aubrey Evans  
 John McCarthy  
 Stephanie Scarborough  
 Trista Hooten Wilson



# Christmas Floral Decorations

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Ursula Kaminski  
 Roger & Kathryn Wallace  
 Newt and Edna Hinton  
 Henry & Mary Lott  
 Kenneth Lott  
 Donald & Katherine Stephenson  
 Billy & Betty Knight  
 JC & Helen Moon  
 JoAnn Crews  
 Elmer & Maxine Blankenship  
 Steve Milton  
 Pete & Pat Arnold & Steve Bozarth  
 Mr. David Stillerman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Underwood  
 Dr. & Mrs. Hyman Stillerman  
 Samuel David Ramsey  
 Our Parents  
 James Elder & Sandy Elder  
 Ann Bouchillon  
 Jackie & Jerry Walden  
 Gene Ensminger  
 Our Parents  
 Bob Waters, Dorothy & Lester Patisaul  
 Ray & Edy Moy  
 Howard & Madelle Boteler  
 Lucille Brown & Roger Wallace

**IN HONOR OF:**

Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough  
 FPC Church Family

Patricia Bozarth  
 Judi Barton  
 Our Children Paige & Kyle  
 Our Grandchildren  
 Neeley & Kimmy  
 Stephanie & Eleanor Scarborough  
 Jimmy Jones

**GIVEN BY:**

Leonard Kaminski  
 Leon and Margaret Hughes  
 The Hinton family  
 “  
 “  
 Mason Stephenson  
 Joe & Cindy Moon  
 “  
 Tom Crews  
 Trent Blankenship  
 Jeff & Julie Mackenzie  
 Doug Arnold & Family  
 Jim & Pam Stillerman  
 “  
 “  
 Ken & Alice Walker  
 Stephanie & Billy Fortson  
 The Elder Family  
 Jean Elder  
 Dan & Perri Walden  
 “  
 Curtis & Carolyn Watson  
 Marleen Waters  
 Gary & Susan Boteler  
 “  
 Doug & Sherri Bolton

**GIVEN BY:**

Doug & Sherry Bolton  
 Robert, Neeley, Kately, Paisley & MaryRantz Lane  
 Doug Arnold & Family  
 Dan & Perri Walden  
 Curtis & Carolyn Watson  
 “  
 Jean & Cy Wolverton  
 Doug & Sherri Bolton  
 Stan & Dana Hall



Donations over the cost of the poinsettias will go to support the Community Food Pantry which will re-open in early 2021.



# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.



## WAYS TO GIVE



Through your congregation



Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or donate



Online at [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)



### Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Presbyterian Mission

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE