

First Presbyterian Church of Inverness, Florida
December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent



Prelude

Dr. Marina Veiler

Welcome

Introit

Still, Still, Still

Chancel Choir

Opening Sentences

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. (*Light the second candle of the Advent wreath*)

***Hymn #482**

Baptized in Water



1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our King; heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing the
 tomb with Christ our King; one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our King; born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's prais - es we sing.

***Confession and Pardon**

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. (silent confession). Let all God's children say, Amen.

***Passing Christ's Peace**

***Gloria#113**

Angels We Have Heard on High (chorus)

Children's Sermon

Lori Wolford

Sacrament of Baptism

Lincoln Cyrus Shelton

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Old Testament Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-68-79

Sermon

The Way of Peace

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

Emmanuel, come; O come and save us.

*Hymn #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

***Blessing and Charge**

***Postlude**



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Church Staff and Contact Information

Church Office 352-637-0770, fpcinvoffice@gmail.com

Lou Ellen Hartley, Pastor – revhartley1000@gmail.com

Lori Wolford, Dir. of Outreach & Christian Education, dcelori.fpc@gmail.com

Lesa Shelton, Volunteer Choir Director

Marina Veiler, Organist

Danny Birstler, Sound Booth Coordinator

Vicki Oorbeck, Child Care Attendant

Laura Morrow, Office Administrator

Bruce Cook, Prayer Warrior

Danny Sullivan, Facilities Manager

Gary Oorbeck, Grounds |Maintenance |Security

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott, Parrish Associate for Visitation

Treasurer Email: fpcinvFinance@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Closed on Friday

Our Elders

Class of 2024: Caryl Birstler (clerk), Alicia Downing, George Schumacher, Carolyn Smith

Class of 2025: Barbara Dee Cawley, Jerry Reynolds, Leah Robinson

Class of 2026: Barbara Caudill, Bruce Cook, Lesa Shelton, John Morrison

Our Deacons

Class of 2024: Wilma Abel, Ron Shafer, Mary Beth Smith

Class of 2025: Toni Scott, Amanda Morrison

Class of 2026: Ray Birstler, Donna Dublo, Adele Wardrup

WORSHIP FLOWERS

Worship Flowers are given today in honor of our mother, Sandra Koonce, on her 85th birthday.

David and Stefi Koonce, Jill and Robert Godwin

Nursery and Sunday School for All Ages

Infants and Pre-K

CE Hall, Room 2

Ms. Vicki

Elementary (K-5)

CE Hall, Room 4

Ms. Mary Beth

Men's Bible Study

Parlor

Rev. Dr. Mark Scott

Adult Sunday School

Library

Barbara Caudill

Secondary/Youth Group (6-12)

CE Hall, Room 5

Ms. Lori, Mr. Ron &

6:00 p.m.

Miss Kryz

ADVENT SUNDAY 2 – WORSHIP WITH BAPTISM

Today, we are observing the sacrament of Baptism for Lincoln Cyrus Shelton, grandson of Lesa and Michael Shelton.

ADVENT CALENDAR

For your holiday prayer life, please pick up an Advent calendar at the Ask Me Desk from The Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Enjoy!

ANGEL TREE FOR THE BABIES

Today, the Angel Tree will transition to support Infants in Need. This mission donates diaper bags to mothers in need at Florida Citrus Hospital, here in Inverness. These bags are full of supplies to get these new mothers started as they take home their newest bundle of joy. As you feel called, you are welcome to take an angel from the tree, shop, and place your unwrapped baby gifts under the tree or drop it at the church office. Thank you for your support.

HOLIDAY RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Pastor Lou Ellen and Brett invite everyone to a reception following our worship service. Come for food and fellowship as the Hartley's wish you a Merry Christmas!

CCCC HOLIDAY CONCERT DECEMBER TODAY

“Christmas Past and Present” will feature holiday music that we know and love, as well as new holiday music. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$12 at the door; students are free.



HOLIDAY



Dinner

LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS!

Be sure that you get your tickets for the Christmas Memories Holiday Dinner today. For \$10, you can enjoy a great meal, win door prizes, and hear a wonderful choir. You may purchase them in the narthex from Sally McKenzie.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

On **Sunday, December 15th**, we will have a **Longest Night Service at 5:30 p.m.** This service is designed for those who are experiencing grief during the holiday season. For many who have known loss, this can be a very difficult time of year. This special service acknowledges the sorrow that we may feel and helps us make room for sadness as well as hope and joy.

A THURSDAY TRADITION

Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., a Bible study group gathers in our church library or in Fellowship Hall. Our year is winding down, so we want to let you know what's coming. **Join us December 12th, and 19th**, when we will finish our study of the Books of the Apostle John, I, II, and III. This will wrap up the Thursday Bible Study for 2024. Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING – DECEMBER 22ND

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges. Please prayerfully consider your gift this year and note on the memo line of your check that your gift is designated to “Christmas Joy Offering.”

345 FOR 2024

Our final count for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for 2024 is 345! That's an increase of last year's 323. Thank you church family and friends! The local collection center will truck the county's shoeboxes to Atlanta for processing before they are shipped to children all over the world. Samaritan's Purse Ministries shows the love of Jesus to “the least of these” in over 130 countries. This is our 21st year to be part of this mission. Praise the Lord!

ALL COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE DECEMBER 30

All committees must submit their annual reports to the church office by **Monday, December 30th**. Please remember that the church office closes at 1:30 p.m., but you may email them to fpcinoffice@gmail.com.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

We would like to give a heart-felt thank you to everyone who turned in a 2025 Estimate of Giving card. We appreciate your commitment to our mission and ministry at First Presbyterian Church. If you have not yet turned in a card, you will find them in the pews. Please fill it out and put it in the offering plate as you leave. This will help us create a more accurate spending plan for the upcoming year. Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Advent Sunday 2

- 9:00 Adult Sunday School - Library
- 9:00 Men's Bible Discussion-Parlor
- 10:00 Worship Service/Baptism of Lincoln Shelton
- 10:00 Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 Holiday Reception Hosted by Pastor Lou Ellen and Brett Hartley
- 3:00 CCCC Concert "Christmas Past & Present"
- 6:00 Anchored

Monday, December 9, 2024

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

- 10:00 Prayer Gathering - Parlor
- 11:00 Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

- *9:00 Blessings
- 9:00 Staff Meeting
- 10:00 Coffee & Conversation - FH

Thursday, December 12, 2024

- *9:00 Blessings
- 10:00 Thursday Bible Study
- 11:00 Fellowship Committee - FH
- 6:00 GenX Night Out

Friday, December 13, 2024

- 5:30 Christmas Memories Dinner - FH

Saturday, December 14, 2024

- 11:00 Celebration of Life for Greg Andreichuk - Reception following
- *4:00 - 9:00 Citrus County Emergency Response Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Advent Sunday 3

Lori Wolford preaching at Zephyrhills Presbyterian

- 9:00 Men's Bible Discussion-Parlor
- 10:00 Worship Service
- 10:00 Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Committee-Library
- 5:30 Longest Night Service
- 6:00 Anchored - Packing with Blessings

*Outside Group

FH = Fellowship Hall

A SPECIAL

Thank You

TO THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ushers

*Mary Palmer
Robert Ramsey
Toni Scott*

Ask Me Desk

Ray & Caryl Birstler

