



 *First
Presbyterian*
AUGUSTA

December 6, 2009

*Not to us, O LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.*

Welcome

But for me it is good to be near God. – Psalm 73:28

We have no greater privilege than to draw near to God. We come to him through the merit of Christ crucified. We come by the power of the Holy Spirit. And we come with God's promise that he will draw near to us (James 4:8).

If your faith has not yet come to rest in Christ, and if God is awakening in your heart a desire to take the next step, please use one of the prayer cards in the pew rack to contact the pastor or speak to him as you leave the sanctuary. A husband and wife team will also be available at the front of the sanctuary following the service to speak with anyone interested in exploring what it means to know Jesus Christ or to join this church.

May our gracious Lord draw near to you wonderfully in this service today.

The Theme: Peace

The Advent Wreath Celebration

During the advent season we will be lighting an advent candle in our morning services. Each week members will come to the front and light an advent candle and read the Scripture associated with that candle. This should add to our sense of expectation and celebration together as a covenant family that the center of our church and the center of our Christmas celebration is Jesus Christ himself.

Families are encouraged to center their family devotions around these advent themes as we celebrate his coming into the world and into our hearts and lives.

The tradition of celebrating the four weeks of advent goes back at least to A.D. 600. There is no uniform practice regarding the symbolism or color of the candles.

However, there are three purple candles, purple often representing the need for repentance in our lives. The three purple candles also stand for Hope, Peace, and

Love, three gifts God provides through the advent of his Son. The pink candle stands for Joy, the Joy that is ours because of his coming. The white candle in the center of the wreath is lit on Christmas Eve and represents the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our purpose in lighting the advent wreath is to focus our attention on Jesus this Christmas season and to honor and glorify him.

LEADING THE SERVICES

Dr. George Robertson Senior Pastor
Rev. Chris Florence Associate Pastor
Mr. Paul Roberts Director of Music Ministry, Organist

THE MORNING SERVICES
The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009

8:30 and 11 a.m.

(† Indicates the congregation standing)

The Choral Prelude - In the Bleak Midwinter.....Darke

Elizabeth Johnson, descant

(The congregation is invited to read Matthew 5:7, 9 page 1501 in the pew Bible)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan. Earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter
long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heav'n and earth
shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable
place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a
lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

† **The Peace**

† **The Call to Worship**.....from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the
splendor of his holiness.**

The LORD gives strength to his people;

The LORD blesses his people with peace.

The LORD be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us worship God.

† The Hymn - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People..... THIRSTING
 (All Verses)

Com-fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, speak of peace, thus says our God.
 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot-ting out each dark mis-deed;
 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 Make now straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn-ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
 all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
 bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble as be - fits his ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 She hath suf - fered many a day, now her griefs have passed a way.
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a - way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 God will change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

† The Invocation

† The Confession of Faith Romans 5:1-2, 8

Q) What is your only comfort in life and in death?

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace (8:30 a.m.).....Katie & Tyler Griffin
(11 a.m.).....Molly & Gary Recktenwald

The Corporate Confession of Sin

(Please kneel)

God of everlasting love,
we confess that we have been unfaithful
to our covenant with you and with one another.
We have worshiped other gods: money, power, greed, and convenience.
We have served our own self-interest
instead of serving only you and your people.
We have not loved our neighbor as you have commanded,
nor have we rightly loved ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God,
and bring us back into the fullness
of our covenant with you and one another.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Personal Confession of Sin

† The Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

(Please stand)

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.

The Offering*

The Offertory Anthem - Carol for WinterLOVELACE

'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
has left the heav'ns all coldly clear.
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow.
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes.
His beauty paints the crimson dawn
and clothes the boughs with glitt'ring wreaths.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow,
and skies are chill and frosts are keen,
home closer draws her circle now,
and warmer glows her light within.

O God who gives the winter's cold,
as well as summer's joyous rays,
us warmly in thy Son enfold,
and bring us to heav'ns glorious days.
Amen.

† The Hymn of Preparation - Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN ROS' ENSTPRUNGEN
 (Children in K4 through fourth grade exit at this time.)
 (All Verses)

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

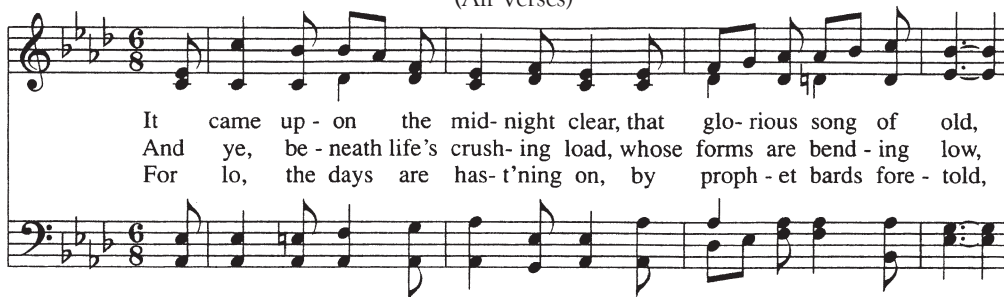
German hymn, ca. 1500

German melody, 15th cent.

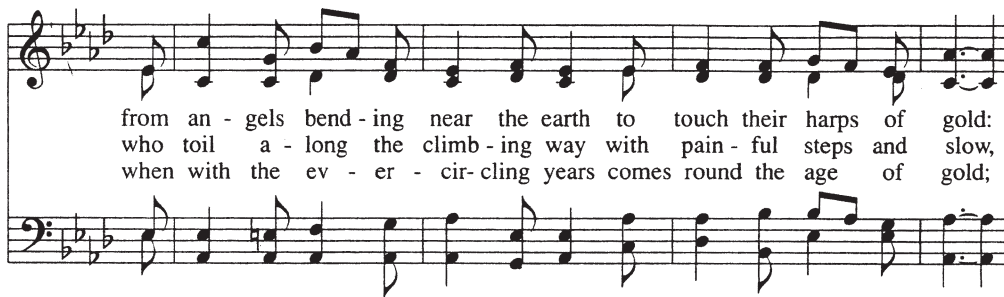
The Sermon - Dignified Duty According to JesusMatthew 5:7, 9
(Sermon Outline on the back of the announcement sheet)

The Silent Prayers of God's People

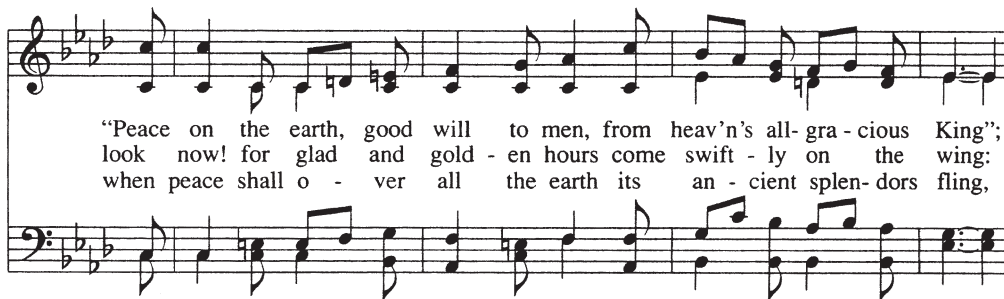
† The Hymn of Response - It Came Upon a Midnight ClearCAROL
(All Verses)



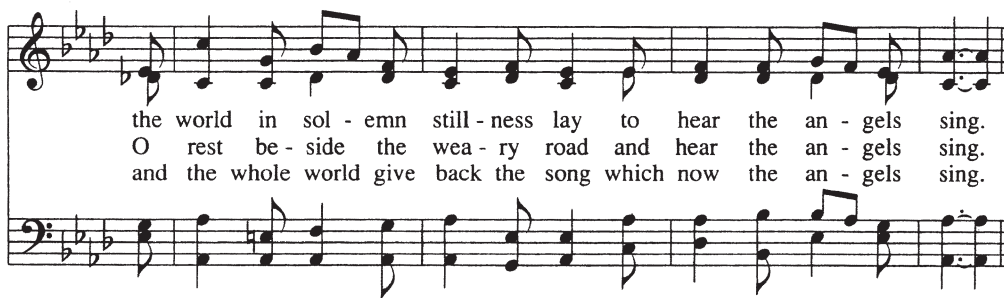
It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;



“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King”;
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

† **The Benediction**

(Please be seated following the benediction)

The Organ Postlude - From Heaven to Earth I ComePachelbel

Please note that an elder is available at the front of the sanctuary following the service for prayer, counsel, or information about how to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The sanctuary flowers are given today to the glory of God by
Pearl Bailie in loving memory of her parents, Carolyn and John Bailie.

CCLI License Number 425646

2010 CHURCH OFFICER ELECTIONS

Dear Members of The First Presbyterian Church of Augusta,

It is with pleasure that the Session of First Presbyterian Church (FPC) inform you of the men that God has raised up as eligible candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon. These men were nominated by the congregation this past May and have successfully completed the extensive Officer Training Course. Upon conclusion of the training, the men, who expressed a strong sense that God was continuing to call them to serve in church office, were examined by the Session and Diaconate and approved to stand for election in 2010.

Since the election of church officers is one of the most important responsibilities we have as members of FPC, we urge you to pray earnestly in preparation for Officer Elections, which will be held during a Congregational Meeting following the evening worship service on Sunday, January 10, 2010. As you pray for these men and God's guidance for our congregation, consider our Lord's instruction through the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 regarding the qualifications of Elder and Deacon. To further assist you in voting preparation, biographical information on each candidate will be provided one week prior to the elections.

The eligible candidates for the 2010 Class of Officers are:

ELDER

Phin Hitchcock
Steve Hubbard
Ron Jeffcoat
Ken Lanclos
Ashley Paulk
Bruce Van Peurseem
Skip Wiggins
Matt Willis

DEACON

Allen Blalock
Randall Boutwell
Justin Halverson
John Massey
Jeff Westergreen
Don Yarid

VISITOR INFORMATION

To Our Guests,

We especially welcome you today! Information about our church is available in our Welcome Center, located through the doorway to the right of the high pulpit. You can also visit our website at www.firstpresaugusta.org.

FALL 2009 ADULT EDUCATION COMMUNITIES (SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Sunday School is provided for all ages. Specific classroom information can be found in the Welcome Center. The following adult classes are offered for this fall. All are encouraged to attend the class of their choosing.

CLASS	STUDY	TEACHER
Elective #1	<i>Progressive Revelation of Holy Spirit</i>	Florence, Vasholz
Elective #2	<i>The Life & Teaching of John Calvin</i>	Robertson, Skenes
Elective #3	<i>Hebrews 11</i>	Cordaro, Johnson, VanPeurseem
Trinity (those with grandchildren & above)	<i>Christian Hymnody</i>	Roberts, Scarbrough
Sojourners (those with elementary/middle school children)	<i>Raising Families in Fast Times</i>	Franks, Whitcomb, Lynch
Builders (young married couples)	<i>Genesis</i>	Class Leaders
Medical Campus Outreach (medical professionals/students)	<i>Sermon on the Mount</i>	Keuroglan
College (for those in college or of college age)	<i>The Life and Ministry of Jesus</i>	Drinkard
Singles (ranging from early 20s to 30s)	<i>Nehemiah</i>	Barrett, Wilkins

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

A specially designed program is offered for children in pre-K through fourth grade during the morning services. A leader will escort children from the sanctuary to their rooms during the hymn of preparation. Parents are welcome to accompany them to observe and/or know where to pick them up after the service. Parents of children in pre-K through second grade are asked to pick up their children following Sunday School or the 11 a.m. worship service.

NURSERY

Nurseries are provided for infants and toddlers during the worship services and Sunday School. We also provide a Mother/Infant Room equipped with audio located beside Nursery 1. Ushers are available to direct you.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in making First Presbyterian your church home or in simply knowing more about our church, please call the church office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., at 706-823-2450.