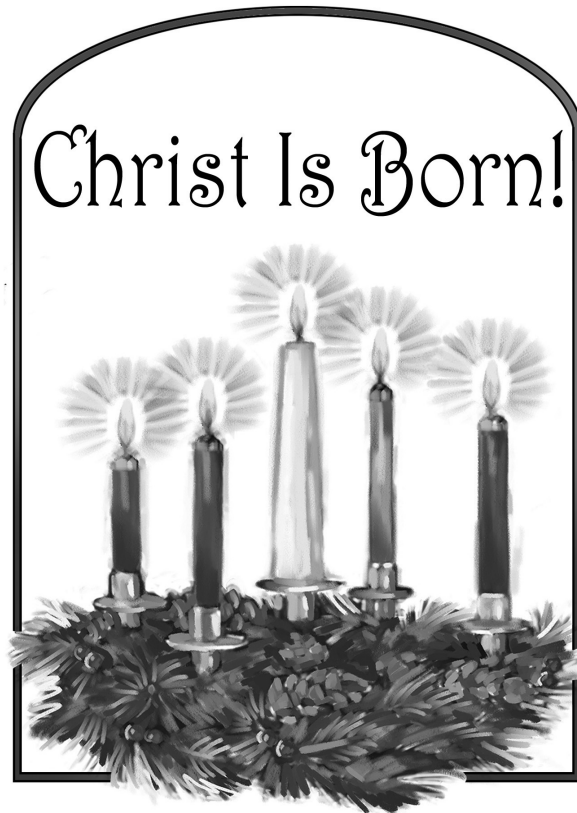


Fort Hill Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church (USA)
Clemson, South Carolina

Christmas Eve Communion Service
December 24, 2011, 9:00 pm



Our Vision

*Joining together on a journey of Christian faith,
we seek to be disciples of Christ and to share God's love
in our community and around the world.*

Our Mission

Glorify God, grow disciples, and meet human needs.

101 Edgewood Avenue, Clemson, SC 29631
864-654-2061; fax 864-654-8934; www.forthillchurch.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Christmas Eve Communion Service

December 24, 2011, 9:00 P.M.

Prelude *Variations on "He is Born"* Franklin Ashdown

+Call to Worship Rodney Norris

Leader: Come away, come away, come tonight to Bethlehem.

People: Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth the angels sing.

Leader: Come away, come away, from your noisy celebration, to a place of peace and joy.

People: Come with wonder, come with awe. Take your place among the sheep and cattle stall.

Leader: Come away, come to Bethlehem!

People: Come, let us join the shepherds in worshipping Jesus the Christ.

+Carol No. 13 *Prepare the Way* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

The Lighting of the Christ Candle Vernie and Jim Roberts

God of our mothers and fathers, of those who died waiting for the promise, and of those living in its fulfillment, we thank you for breaking into history with the gift of your son, Jesus. As the Christmas bells ring, as the choirs sing, as the lights of this festive season shine brightly, we rejoice in the coming of the One called Emmanuel. May his presence, and yours, O God, fill us this day and every day. And all God's children say... Amen.

+A Joyous Response Carol No. 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (stanzas 1 & 3)* MENDELSSOHN

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Jesus the Messiah, the Christ child, born this night. *(followed by silent individual confession)*

Declaration of Forgiveness (followed by)

Leader: Friends, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

+Carol No. 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanzas 1 & 4)* ST LOUIS

The Old Testament Lesson in Unison: Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. by Bennett

The Christmas Story

The Annunciation Luke 1:26-38
Carol No. 5 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* (stanzas 1-2) PICARDY

The Birth Luke 2:1-7
Carol No. 53 *What Child Is This* (stanzas 1-2) GREENSLEEVES

The Adoration of the Shepherds Luke 2:8-20
Carol No. 56 *The First Nowell* (stanzas 1 & 4) THE FIRST NOWELL

Communion Meditation *Bread of Heaven* Laura Conrad

+Carol No. 38 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* CAROL

The Offering of One's Self and One's Gifts to God and the Church
(The "Joy Gift Offering" will be received at this time.)

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Praetorius

+Congregational Response *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (refrain) ADESTE FIDELES
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Invitation

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

The Communion

A Communion Carol *Still, Still, Still* arr. by Ehret

Prayer of Thanksgiving- Simeon Praises God for Jesus - Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of the people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Amen.

+Carol No. 40 *Joy to the World* (stanzas 1 & 4) ANTIOCH

+The Lighting of Individual Christmas Candles

+Carol No. 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night* STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,

Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

+The Benediction

+Postlude *God Rest You Merry* Wilbur Held

+Indicates that all who are able may stand

(For the 2011 "Joy Gift" offering, please make check payable to Fort Hill Church and mark it for "Joy Gift Fund.")

Announcements:

Pastor on Call 12/24 – 01/01 – Rodney Norris – to reach the pastor on call, between the hours of 4:30PM – 8:30 AM call 654-2065. Laura Conrad is on vacation this week.

Tonight we celebrate the Lord's Supper by Intinction. After the Choir receives the sacrament, the ushers will lead you. Please come forward by the center aisle to one of the two stations where you will receive the bread and cup. Please take a piece of bread large enough to dip in the cup. Then return to your seats by the outside aisle. Ross Davis and William Spitler are assisting with communion, and Jim and Marchita Culpepper are assisting as ushers today.

To Our Guests and Visitors: We are so glad you have chosen to celebrate this holy night with us. If you are new to the area or do not have a church home, we invite you to return again to worship here. We would love to share with you our mission and ministry. We are called as a community of disciples who seek to share God's love in this community and in God's world. Join us on the journey!

Restrooms are available off of the Narthex towards the covered doorway.

Joy Gift Offering

We receive this offering at Christmas. 50% of the Joy Gift offering assists church workers, missionaries, pastors, and their families in times of crisis through the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. The other 50% of the offering also supports our Presbyterian Racial/Ethnic colleges. Please make checks payable to Fort Hill Church marked for "Joy Gift Fund."

Christmas Sunday Worship- Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 am

This Sunday we will gather for worship at one service in the Sanctuary at 10:30. Come celebrate the birth of Christ as we sing carols and praise God! No Sunday School.

Note: One Service only on New Year's Day, January 1st at 10:30. No Sunday School.

Thanks to all who have helped to make our Advent Season so memorable this year. Too many folks helped to mention by name, but we certainly have many willing helpers among our congregation and we are grateful for their assistance. We have angels right here at Fort Hill it seems!

Worship Leaders: Laura Conrad, Pastor; Rodney Norris, Associate Pastor

Music Director: Margaret MacKay

Organist: Judy Bonham