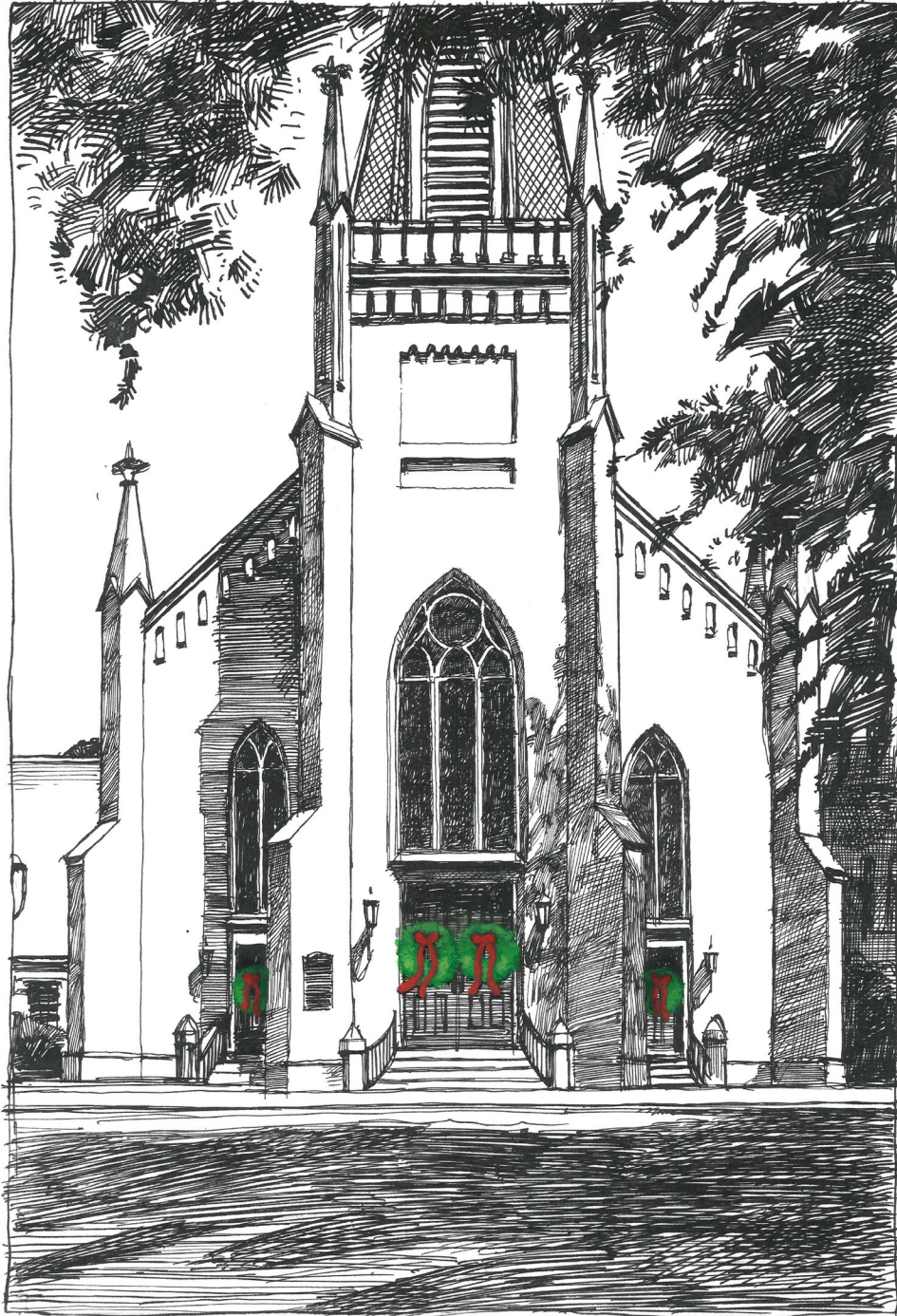


# First Presbyterian Church

7:30 PM HANDBELL CONCERT | 8 PM WORSHIP | DECEMBER 24, 2023 | CHRISTMAS EVE



*We invite you, whoever you are and whoever God is helping you to become, to join First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte in our journey of faith. God is love, and that love is for you. You belong as a child of God, and we welcome you. Come experience how that belonging might change you and our world as we seek to be for Christ in the heart of Charlotte.*



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

VIRTUAL  
CONNECT  
CARD

Are you  
interested  
in joining  
our church?  
Contact  
Jane Ives,  
Membership  
Coordinator,  
jives@firstpres-  
charlotte.org.

## IVEY RINGERS HANDBELL CONCERT

Silent Night | arr. Trevor Cook  
Joy to the World | arr. Trevor Cook  
Do You Hear What I Hear | arr. Wagner  
Now the Green Blade Riseth | arr. McChesney  
Away in a Manger | arr. Trevor Cook

**Prelude** | Variations on *Adeste Fideles* | Marcel Dupré

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** | Ms. Jonette Harper and Ms. Jocelyn Stanley

We are heavy with sorrow,  
**but joy interrupts.**  
We are deep in the night,  
**but a star has appeared.**  
We are hardened by conflict,  
**but grace intervenes.**  
God, your good news of great joy is beyond our words.  
**Love outmatches our ability to articulate.**  
Let us worship God.

+**Hymn No. 133** | “O Come, All Ye Faithful” | ADESTE FIDELES

**Opening Prayer** | Anna Dickson

**We wait impatiently, as only the stars can muster a hush as they bend toward the coming light.**  
**Help us hold our collective breath with the angelic host as they clutch their restless alleluias.**  
**For God is on the way: the mother is laboring, the father pacing, the stable preparing, the Word waiting, the light breaking forth, and the promise shining through.**  
**Ready us, we pray. Amen.**

**Anthem** | “The Angels and the Shepherds” | arr. Stephen Paulus

*Shepherds, O hark ye, glad tidings we bring. Peace and good will to the world now we sing. See in the manger Christ the Anointed, whom for your savior God hath appointed. Alleluia. In yonder manger behold now he lies, whom angel voices foretold from the skies. Seeking thy mercy, we kneel before thee, singing thy praises, humbly adore thee. Alleluia. Still through the ages the song doth resound; peace and good will on the earth shall abound. Bear we the tidings of every nation, born is the Christ child for our salvation. Alleluia.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture** | Isaiah 9:2-7 | pew Bible p. 638

+**Carol 119** | “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” | MENDELSSOHN

**Anthem** | “Agnus Dei” | Donnie McClurkin | FUPC Praise Team

**Scripture** | John 1:1-5 | pew Bible p. 91

**Sermon** | “The Light of All People” | Pen Peery

+**Carol 121** | “O Little Town of Bethlehem” | ST. LOUIS

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer** | Delton Farmer

**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.**

**Christmas Offering**

**Offertory Anthem** | “In the Bleak Midwinter” | Harold Darke  
Kelly Harder and Lauren Russell, soloists

*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, Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed. The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day; a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. 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 can I give him? Give my heart.*

**Sharing the Light of Christ**

+**Carol** | “Silent Night, Holy Night” | STILLE NACHT

During the final stanza, please lift your candle.

**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.**

+**Benediction**

*As the lights come on, please extinguish your candle, place it in the receptacle, and exit the sanctuary in peace.*

**PRAYER  
REQUESTS**



**GIVE  
ONLINE**



**TEXT  
TO GIVE**



## IN LOVING MEMORY

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John Malcolm Murchison, Jr., *September 9, 1939 - December 18, 2023*

## ABOUT THIS SERVICE

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The Christmas Eve offering will be collected for Roof Above. Their mission is to serve as the catalyst for systemic change to end homelessness in our community.

*If you wish to sponsor sanctuary flowers for a baptism, marriage, memorial/honorarium, or special occasion, please notify Diane Maye at [dianenmaye@hotmail.com](mailto:dianenmaye@hotmail.com).*

Today's Worship Leaders:

**The Reverend Pendleton B. Peery**, *Senior Pastor*

**The Reverend Lucy M. Crain**, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Mission*

**The Reverend Anna R. Dickson**, *Associate Pastor for Congregational Care*

**The Reverend Delton H. Farmer**, *Senior Pastor, First United Presbyterian Church*

**The Reverend Robert L. Galloway**, *Associate Pastor for Christian Formation and Young Adults*

**William P. Young, III**, *Director of Music Ministries*

**Catherine Hicks**, *Guest Organist*

**FUPC Praise Team**