

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Lord's Day Worship

December 21, 2008

Almighty God, who has given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a virgin; grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

~from the Book of Common Prayer

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Marty Martin

Choral Introit

Rejoice

The Choir

Call to Worship

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

The people who walk in darkness

Will see a great light;

Those who live in a dark land,

The light will shine on them.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

And the government will rest on His shoulders;

And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,

On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

§ Psalm

No. 195

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

§ Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

"Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God.

"Speak kindly to Jerusalem;

And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,

That her iniquity has been removed,

That she has received of the LORD'S hand

Double for all her sins."

A voice is calling,

"Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;

Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

"Let every valley be lifted up,

And every mountain and hill be made low;

And let the rough ground become a plain,

And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,

And all flesh will see it together;

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Call out."

Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness

is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

Surely the people are grass.

continued on next page

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the word of our God stands forever.

Get yourself up on a high mountain,

O Zion, bearer of good news,

Lift up your voice mightily,

O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;

Lift it up, do not fear.

Say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,

With His arm ruling for Him.

Behold, His reward is with Him

And His recompense before Him.

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,

In His arm He will gather the lambs

And carry them in His bosom;

He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

§ Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 201

§ Worship Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Wonder of Wonders

The Choir

Prayer of Confession, Intercession and Supplication

§ Hymn of Preparation

All Praise to Thee Eternal Lord

No. 219

Reading of Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

Pew Bible pages 957-958

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

²"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

⁶"AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH,

ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH;

FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER

WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

⁷Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

⁹After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

¹¹After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Proclamation of God's Word

The Talk of the Town

Pastor Martin

§ Hymn

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

No. 218

§ Benediction

Pastor Martin

§ Corporate "Amen"

§ The congregation will please stand.

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Isaiah 61:10-11

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,
My soul will exult in my God;

For He has clothed me with garments of salvation,

He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,

And as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up,

So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise

To spring up before all the nations.

§ Hymn

God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen

No. 211

§ Prayer of Praise and Invocation

New Testament Reading

Luke 1:57-80

Pew Bible pages 1019-1020

⁵⁷Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son.

⁵⁸Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her.

⁵⁹And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father.

⁶⁰But his mother answered and said, "No indeed; but he shall be called John."

⁶¹And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name."

⁶²And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

⁶³And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished.

⁶⁴And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God.

⁶⁵Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea.

⁶⁶All who heard them kept them in mind, saying,

"What then will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

⁶⁴And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For He has visited us and accomplished

redemption for His people,

⁶⁹And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of David His servant--

⁷⁰As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets
from of old--

⁷¹Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES,
AND FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE
US;

⁷²To show mercy toward our fathers,

And to remember His holy covenant,

⁷³The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

⁷⁴To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand
of our enemies,

Might serve Him without fear,

⁷⁵In holiness and righteousness before Him all our
days.

⁷⁶"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the
Most High;

For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO
PREPARE HIS WAYS;

⁷⁷To give to His people the knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸Because of the tender mercy of our God,

With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,
⁷⁹TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS
AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH,

To guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰And the child continued to grow and to become
strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the
day of his public appearance to Israel.

§ Hymn

Silent Night! Holy Night!

No. 210

Prayer of Confession, Petition and Intercession

§ Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No 193

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible page 927

²"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

Too little to be among the clans of Judah,

From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in

Israel.

His goings forth are from long ago,

From the days of eternity."

³Therefore He will give them up until the time

When she who is in labor has borne a child.

Then the remainder of His brethren

Will return to the sons of Israel.

⁴And He will arise and shepherd His flock

In the strength of the LORD,

In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.

And they will remain,

Because at that time He will be great

To the ends of the earth.

⁵This One will be our peace.

Proclamation of God's Word

Not As We Would Expect It

Pastor Martin

§ Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No 208

§ Benediction

Pastor Martin

WELCOME!

If you are visiting Fellowship Presbyterian Church for the first time, we welcome you as you worship with us. Please help us get to know one another by signing the Pew Registry as it is passed. We invite you to return to our evening worship at 6:00 PM. A nursery is provided for all services for children from birth through three years of age.

SERVICES AND WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

10:00 AM: Sunday School
11:00 AM: Morning Worship
6:00 PM: Evening Worship



“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in My name welcomes Me.”

We appreciate those assisting in the nursery:

Nursery Workers for Sunday, December 21, 2008:

Sunday School: Barbara Wilder
Morning Worship: Jeff & Susan Wayne, Sevrin Dyer
Evening Worship: Carolyn Root & Roberta Macedo

Nursery Workers for Sunday, December 28, 2008:

Sunday School: Barbara Wilder
Morning Worship: Jonathan & Kayla Bain, Patti Brazil
Evening Worship: Celanie & Hamilton Martin

SERVING IN DECEMBER:

Elder of the Month: Larry Poole (268-5514)
Deacon of the Month: Sam Stubbs (968-9555)
Greeters of the Month: Tabitha, Suzannah & Alan Way
Ushers: Troy High & Bill Wilder

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

The Session:

Teaching Elder: Pastor Martin H. Martin

Ruling Elders:

Ron Hughey, Dave Lesley, Lafoye Mooney, Larry Poole & Jeff Wayne, Sr.

The Diaconate:

Deacons: Bill Wilder & Sam Stubbs

Church Intern:

Breno Macedo

Contact Information:

Address: 1105 Old Spartanburg Road ~ Greer, SC 29650
Phone: (864) 877-3267 Fax: (864) 877-0564
Email: office@fellowshippres.org Web site: www.fellowshippres.org

PLEASE CONTINUE TO REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES IN PRAYER:

Rev. & Mrs. Jack Campbell: RMI (Clemson) Rev. & Mrs. Guillermo Salinas: Mexico
Rev. & Mrs. Clayton Quarterman: Ukraine Rev. & Mrs. James Buckner: Hong Kong
Dr. & Mrs. Roger Smalling: Visión R.E.A.L. Rev. & Mrs. Will Traub: Germany
Rev. & Mrs. Francisco Cardoso: Brazil Rev. & Mrs. Gary Watanabe: New York City

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Pew Registry: Please help us get to know one another by signing the pew registry (located at the end of each aisle). Thank you!

The PCA Christmas Offering, which is used “to assist PCA retired and disabled pastors, missionaries, Church lay workers, their widows and dependent children who may have financial need,” will be received on 12/21 & 12/28.

Remember to mark your checks or envelopes “PCA Christmas Offering”.

Reminder: No Wednesday supper, prayer service or catechism this week; Wednesday night activities will resume on January 14, 2009.

Ladies' Bible Studies Resume in January:

✿ The Ladies' Thursday Evening Bible Study, “I Will Be Your God”, will begin January 8 at 7:00 P.M. at the home of Barbara Wilder. The study will focus on how God's covenant enriches our lives (Ezekiel 36:26-28). Please contact Barbara Wilder (848-6434 or bwilder220bellsouth.net) for additional information.

✿ The Ladies' Tuesday Morning Precepts Bible Study (an inductive study of the gospel of John) will begin Tuesday, January 27, from 9:30-11:30 A.M. at the church; nursery is available. Please contact, Wendy Richards (877-3267 or 399-9276) for more information.

DEACON NOMINATIONS:

The Session of Fellowship Presbyterian Church will receive nominations for the office of Deacon beginning mid January 2009; please prayerfully consider who the Lord would have serve in this office.

“Daily Bible Reading Calendars”

(read through the Bible in one year)

are available in the narthex;
take extra copies to share with your friends and neighbors!

The office will be closed December 22-26; December 31-January 2 for Christmas & New Years holidays.

Greeters of the Month for 2009:

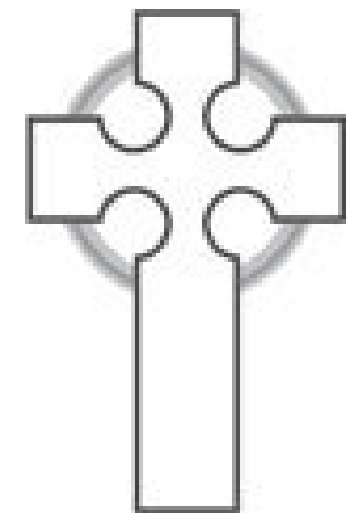
A ministry opportunity for the whole family!

Each Sunday, prior to morning and evening worship, our Greeters of the Month extend a friendly “hello” (and a bulletin!) to visitors (and members), welcoming them to Fellowship Presbyterian Church. We are in the process of scheduling Greeters for 2009; one family or two individuals are needed each month. If you would be willing serve as a Greeter, please **sign the sheet in the narthex**. For details, contact Bill Wilder (848-6434 or bwilder220@bellsouth.net).

Fellowship Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church in America

December 21, 2008



Our purpose is to glorify the Triune God by reconciling the lost to Him through faith in Jesus Christ and equipping the saints to serve Him in every area of life.
II Corinthians 5:18-19; Matthew 28:19-20