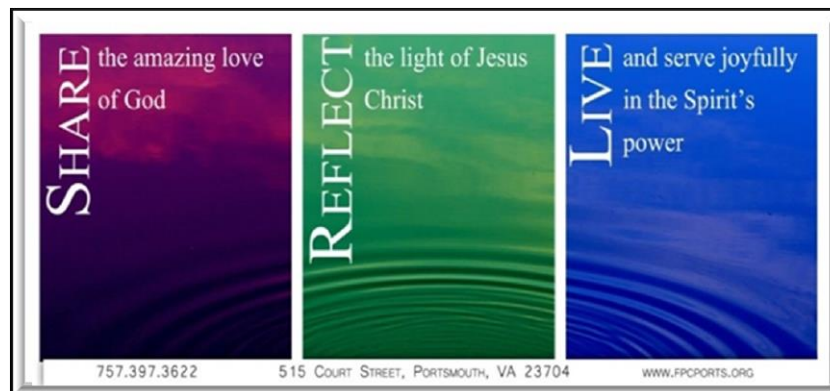


First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016



Coming Events

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent Cantata "Appalachian Winter"

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship

Wednesday, December 14

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Saturday, December 17

12:00 Presbyterian

Women's Christmas

Gathering at Pat Sparks'
home

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship,
"Adoption"

Wednesday, December 21

6:45 Bells

7:15 Choir

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

7:00 Worship, "Christmas
Pastries"

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

9:00 Breakfast fellowship

9:20 Children's music

9:30 Sunday school

10:30 Worship, "Shepherd
– Yuck!"

**Reminder: During
worship, please enter
through the Court Street
sanctuary doors. All other
doors will be locked.**



***Please rise in body and**

Made One by Christ

Welcome

News for the Good of the Church

Prelude "Appalachian Winter"

Joseph M. Martin

* Choral Call to Worship

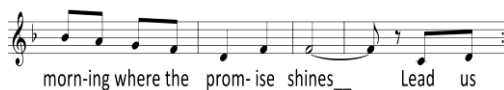
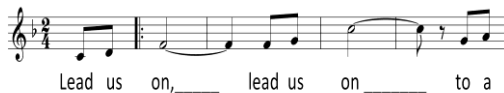
"Where the Promise Shines" Joel Raney
A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Third Sunday – *The Promise of Joy*

Reader/Advent candle lighters:

Grace Bryant and Gail Pittman

Refrain – Congregation and Choir



Responsive Litany

Advent is a time for God's people to
reawaken their longings.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In the silence, we long for a comforting
word.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the
promise of joy.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy
comes in the morning.**

Candle Lighting and Reading

Refrain – Congregation and Choir

Opening Prayer

***Hymn #147**

"The First Nowell"

Handel

Clothed by Christ

Moment of Silence

Corporate Prayer of Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in Your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to Your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome You with joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Sharing of Christ's Peace

***Song of Praise, "We Are Singing"**

We are singing for the Lord is our Light; we are singing for the Lord is our Light. *(Repeat once)*

We are singing, singing; we are singing, Oh, we are singing for the Lord is our Light. *(Repeat once)*

Repeat the above substituting the word praying for singing.

Sharing God's Blessings and Compassion

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Musical Offering

"He Shall Feed His Sheep"

Handel

***Doxology Hymn #606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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**

Hearing God's Word of Hope and Power

Cantata "Appalachian Winter" Joseph M. Martin
 A Cantata for Christmas

Narrator	The Rev. Steve Frazier
Piano	Edna Broadhurst
Flute	Michael Broadhurst
Guitar	John Hackworth

Soprano	Karen Diggs
	Kelsey Frazier
	Diane Griffin
	Oralie Wilhite
	Grace Bryant
Alto	Nancy Frazier
	Gabrielle Furman
	Gail Pittman

Tenor	John Hackworth
	Todd Taylor

Bass	Michael Broadhurst
	Matthew Goodrich
	Raymond Rodrigues

Movements

"Appalachian Winter"

"'Tis a Season for Singing"

"Long Time Ago"

"Hope and Expectation"

"Carol of the Winter Wind"

"Mountain Carol"

"Gentle Carols of Bethlehem"

"While the Shepherds Watched"

"A Rustic Carol"

"Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain"

Taking Christ's Blessing to the World

Charge

* Benediction (sung) "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

The Vision of the Congregation: We see ourselves as the embracing arms of Jesus Christ for each other, for the community, and for the world.

Welcome to our friends and visitors!

We hope that you find our congregation a welcoming one.

Your presence enriches our worship of God

Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in our courtyard lobby.

Memorial Donation:

Joyce Wright – IMO Robert Westbrook and Harold Yingling

The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering will be held Saturday, December 17, at 12 pm, at the home of Pat Sparks, 400 Westmoreland Avenue, Portsmouth. A covered dish lunch will be followed by a program, including music by special guests Lindsay and Ryan Kight (Burma Smith's granddaughter). All the women of the church are invited to come and bring a dish to share, even if you do not take part in the Women's Circle. Call Pat if you plan to attend (393-0895) so that she will know how many to expect.

EDMARC holiday dinner food baskets: The Presbyterian Women are asking for your help in filling a basket this year for a family of 4 to 6. Please sign up to bring staples, fresh vegetables, or a turkey/ham. The sign-up sheet is located in the courtyard foyer. All food items are due on 12/11. Please see Alice Butler for more information.

Prayer List

Ronald Curry (Grace Yingling's son), Karen Diggs,
Jackie and Tyler Forsythe, Stephanie Green,
Linda Harrell (friend of Alice Butler),
Mary Alice Jarman (friend of Bob and Judy Powell),
Christy Mattern, Carl Rhodes, the Winkler and Powell families,
Dorothy Wooldridge (friend of Carl Rhodes)

Everyone suffering with cancer and facing surgery

Our friends at home, especially

Margaret Glynn, Lanier Halterman, Frances Hardy,
AT & Nancy Mayo, Ann Michaluk, Sue Parker,
Lane Pittman, Harvey Spiers, Patrice & Phil Winkler,
Joyce Wright, Grace Yingling

Leading in worship today

The Rev. Steve Frazier
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries
Ushers: David Culpepper, Dan Swanson
Counters: David Culpepper, Norma Halterman

December Offerings

12/4	\$ 4,915.60	12/18
12/11		12/25
		MTD \$ 4,915.60

December Attendance

12/4	Worship	49	Sunday school	16
12/11	Worship		Sunday school	
12/18	Worship		Sunday school	
12/25	Worship		Sunday school	

The church office will be open on Wednesdays only, from 1:00 – 4:00.

In order to prepare the bulletin in a timely manner, all notices should be sent to (pastor@fpcports.org) and/or the bulletin editor (bulletin@fpcports.org) no later than 6pm Tuesday.

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Session

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Moderator of Session
Gail Pittman, Clerk of Session
Administration - Paul Butler | Fellowship - Oralie Wilhite
Finance - Diane Griffin | Mission/Outreach - Jennifer Patgorski
Property - Michael Broadhurst
Worship - Agnes McFadden and David Culpepper

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to contact the appropriate elder with their comments and suggestions.

Church Staff

The Rev. Steve Frazier, Covenant Pastor	397-3622 ext. 202
Edna Broadhurst, Director of Music Ministries	397-3622 ext. 203

Birthdays

12/2	Kathy Goolsby
12/3	Frances Spires
12/12	Margaret Glynn, Jay James, Viki Goolsby
12/18	Michael Broadhurst
	Corbin Taylor
12/21	Pat Sparks
12/22	Earl Griffin
12/28	Elizabeth (Pond) Gerlach
	Riley Winkler
12/30	Ian Taylor

Missing a birthday?

Please contact:

Church pastor@fpcports.org 397-3622
Bulletin Editor bulletin@fpcports.org
Newsletter Editor slp149@aol.com

Ministries

12/4	BF	Todd Taylor
	SS	Chreston Holoman
	PWF	Oralie Wilhite
12/11	BF	Barbara & Sylvia
	SS	Chreston Holoman
	PWF	Lou Wilhite
12/18	BF	
	SS	Chreston Holoman
	PWF	
12/25	BF	
	SS	Chreston Holoman
	PWF	

www.FPCports.org



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APPALACHIAN WINTER

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS

By Joseph M. Martin

—MOVEMENTS—

"APPALACHIAN WINTER"

"TIS A SEASON FOR SINGING"

LONG TIME AGO"

"HOPE AND EXPECTATION"

"CAROL OF THE WINTER WIND"

"MOUNTAIN CAROL"

"GENTLE CAROLS OF BETHLEHEM"

"WHILE THE SHEPHERDS WATCHED"

"A RUSTIC STAR CAROL"

"CHILDREN, GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"



Piano — Edna Broadhurst

Flute — Michael Broadhurst

Guitar — John Hackworth

Narrator — Steve Frazier

— Choir —

Soprano — Karen Diggs, Kelsey Frazier,
Diane Griffin, Oralie Wilhite

Alto — Grace Bryant, Nancy Frazier,
Gabrielle Furman, Gail Pittman

Tenor — John Hackworth, Todd Taylor

Bass — Michael Broadhurst, Matthew Goodrich,
Raymond Rodrigues

First Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 11, 2016

Appalachian Winter

(Prelude)

'Tis a Season for Singing

'Tis a season for singing; 'tis a season for praise; 'tis a time to lift a song and celebrate. We raise our alleluias and we hope and we pray. With a heart of joy, we prepare the way.

Sing, sing! Let ev'ry valley ring, for soon we will greet the King; and the world will see the hope that morning brings on that day of joy when the stars all sing.

'Tis a gift sent from heaven, a gift rare and free. 'Tis a gift of grace that brings eternity. The promise made to Abraham will soon be made sight. All the world will see the one true Light.

'Tis a season for singing; 'tis a season for praise; 'tis a time to lift a song and celebrate. We raise our alleluias and we hope and we pray. With a heart of joy, we prepare the way.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Hallelujah! Christ is coming! Christ is coming soon! Hallelujah!

Narrator: This is the season for music and singing.

How right it is to raise our voices in worship and praise, for it was into the silence that God spoke to us His word of life.

How fitting that, in winter's deepening darkness, we light a candle and gaze upon its golden grace, for it was into the shadows that God sent His Son.

How beautiful it is when we gather as one community of faith to share the timeless story that transformed the world with light.

Yes, it is only right that we sing and be joyful for this is the season of wonders and a time for remembering we are people of hope, peace, love, and joy.

Long Time Ago

To a tiny stable lowly, long time ago, came the Son of God most holy, long time ago. Angels filled the night with singing, stars all aglow; songs of joy through heaven ringing, long time ago.

Little Baby in a manger, prophets foretold; God's own Son and yet a stranger, long time ago. To a tiny stable lowly, God's love to show, came the Son of God most holy, long time ago, long time ago.

Narrator: This is the season for hope and expectation.

Joined to each other by the cords of our common need, we quiet our hearts and listen for the coming of the Lord. In the stillness we prepare our lives to receive the music of promise that can only come from the heart of God.

Let us pray: O Lord our God, You are a beautiful flower blooming in the winter's desolation. You are the song that breaks through the silence of the evening shadows. You are the everlasting joy that comes with the dawn.

O Lord, remember Your people of the covenant. Hear our cries for forgiveness and mercy. Send to us Your Son and change the world with grace.

Hope and Expectation

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set all people free. Come, Jesus, come. From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art. Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone. By Thine own sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Hark; the prophet's voice is calling. "Christ is near," he seems to say. "Cast away your sin and sadness. In your heart prepare His way." Sleepers, awake! Prepare for Jesus. Trim your lamps and keep the flame for to you a King is coming. Love and life are His name.

Come, Almighty, to deliver. Let us all, Thy grace receive. Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave. O come, Lord Jesus, come!

Narrator: This is a season of peace and assurance.

Let the Spirit of God, like a gentle wind, move through your hearts and strengthen your faith. Let it search you and fill you with new life and fresh meaning. Live expectantly for the coming of the Son. God is working His purpose out, and soon a new day will dawn and fill the earth with light.

For it is written, "Behold the day is coming when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and in that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth from David; and He shall bring justice and righteousness to the land." (*Jeremiah 33:14-15 NRSV paraphrased*)

Carol of the Winter Wind

Upon the wind there comes a song, a gentle voice of grace, a song of hope, a hymn of peace for winter's chilling days. It fills the air with sounds of joy; 'tis music for the soul. It whispers soft of coming spring and roses in the snow.

I hear the music in the night; the silence fills with song, a gentle voice that whispers love till glory wakes the dawn. O morning stars, break forth in praise and teach the world to sing. The Son is coming to the earth with healing in His wings.

Soon to the winter comes a strain, a carol from above, a lullaby of perfect peace sent from the heart of God. A babe will cry; a mother, sigh; the earth will greet her Lord; and God will send a winter wind, and hope will be restored. Hope will be restored.

Narrator: This is the season for listening and learning.

Let the word of God dwell richly in you. May it encourage and strengthen you as you wait for the coming kingdom.

Through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah, the promises of God have been made known. The Bible reminds us to find comfort in these prophecies, declaring, "For things written in ancient times are given for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (*Romans 13:4, paraphrased*)

The prophets declared that in Bethlehem a virgin would give birth. This

miracle would be sacred evidence that the promise made to David would be fulfilled. This holy Child will establish a kingdom that will last forever. "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Might God, Eternal Father, and the Prince of Peace." (*Isaiah 9:6, paraphrased*)

Mountain Carol

Ye nations all, on you I call: come hear the declaration, and don't refuse the glorious news of promise and salvation. For soon the earth will see the birth of Christ, the great Messiah, as was foretold by prophets old, Isaiah, Jeremiah.

To Abraham the promise came, and to his seed forever; a light to shine in Isaac's line, in scripture we discover. Hail, Promised One! God's only Son, the glorious Mediator. God's living word will come to earth and dwell with us forever.

To Bethlehem this holy Lamb will come with God's salvation. To us a King will come and bring good news to ev'ry nation. Rejoice! Rejoice! Make joyful noise and shout jubilation, for soon a Star will rise afar and wake the celebration. Alleluia! Rejoice! Alleluia! Rejoice!

Narrator: This is the season of promises and fulfillment.

All that had been spoken through the prophets came true in the most miraculous and wonderful way.

"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a Child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver the Child. And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (*Luke 2:1, 3-7 NRSV*)

Gentle Carols of Bethlehem

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the night sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above the deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The cattle are lowing; the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry; and the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King. Oh, Bethlehem cradles a King!

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in Your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Narrator: This is a season for thanksgiving and praise.

It is a time to hold tightly to our dream for peace on earth. With hearts of hope, let us pray for the day when the noise of violence will at last melt into the voice of praise.

As we recount the amazing events surrounding the birth of Christ, we are filled with gratitude.

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a Child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.'

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace and good will to all.' " *(Luke 2:18-14 NRSV paraphrased)*

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around. Sing Gloria! Sing Gloria, our song shall ever be! Sing Gloria for all eternity!

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind, "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind." Sing Gloria! Sing Gloria, our song shall ever be! Sing Gloria for all eternity!

"All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heav'n to all begin and never cease, begin and never cease!" Sing Gloria! Sing Gloria, our song shall ever be! Sing Gloria for all eternity! Sing Gloria for all eternity! Sing Gloria!

Narrator: This is the season for seeking and worship.

As we gaze into the wintry night sky, we are filled with a sense of wonder and awe. "Who are we, that God should love us? Who are we, that God should send His Son Jesus to restore and redeem our broken lives?"

As we search the scriptures, we discover that we are not alone with these thoughts. Sages from the East also searched the night skies for answers. These wise philosophers had studied ancient prophecies; and when they discovered a new and brilliant star, they pondered its significance. In the gospel of Matthew, we read this account:

"In the times of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the Child who has been born king of the Jews? For we have observed His star in the east, and have come to pay Him homage.' " *(Matthew 2:1-2 NRSV paraphrased)*

A Rustic Star Carol

Arise and shine! Your Light has come. A Miracle is born. Behold, a star is rising, the glory of the morn. Behold, a star is rising, the glory of the morn.

Arise and Shine! Awake the dawn. Break forth in joyful praise. Hope of ev'ry nation has come to us this day. The hope of ev'ry nation has come to us this day.

Arise and shine, and leave behind the sorrow of the night. The shadows all surrender to love's redeeming light. The shadows all surrender to love's redeeming light.

Arise and shine! Your Light has come. A Miracle is born. Behold, a star is rising, the glory of the morn. Behold, a star is rising, the glory of the morn.

Narrator: This is a season of sharing and celebration.

Christ is born! God has sent a Redeemer into our world and has set our alleluias free!

For it is written: "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain: O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say into the cities of Judah, behold your God!" (*Isaiah 40:9 KJV*)

Arise and shine children of Light. Declare the good news of the Savior's love. Shine your lamps from the highest mountain and tell the world that Christ the Lord is Born! "Glory to God in the highest! Christ the Lord is born!"

Children, Go Tell It on the Mountain

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send you one by one, one for the little bitty Baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send you two by two, two for Mary and Joseph, one for the little bitty Baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? Three for the kings that saw the star, two for Mary and Joseph, one for the little bitty Baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send you four by four, four is for the four who knocked at the door, three for the kings that saw the star, two for Mary and Joseph, and one for the little bitty Baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Now, children, go where I send thee. How shall I send thee? I'm gonna send them five by five, five by five, five for the preachers, the gospel preachers, four for the four who knocked on the door, two for Mary and Joseph, and one for the little bitty baby who was born, born, born in Bethlehem.

Children take the news and go!

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where. Go and tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'ry where. Go and tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Go, tell the world. Christ is born!