

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**This Week**

Liturgist: Jerry Kross  
Sound:  
Ushers: Jan Kross  
Jerry Kross

**SERVING THE CHURCH**

**Next Week**

Liturgist: Linda Stenhouse  
Sound:  
Ushers: Linda Stenhouse  
Joe Vaitkevicius  
Candie Vaitkevicius

**Elder of the Month for December**

Jerry Kross, 864-915-3560

**SESSION MEMBERS**

**Class of 2021**

Bill Marshall (NS)  
Bill Marshall (PA)  
Barb Daugherty

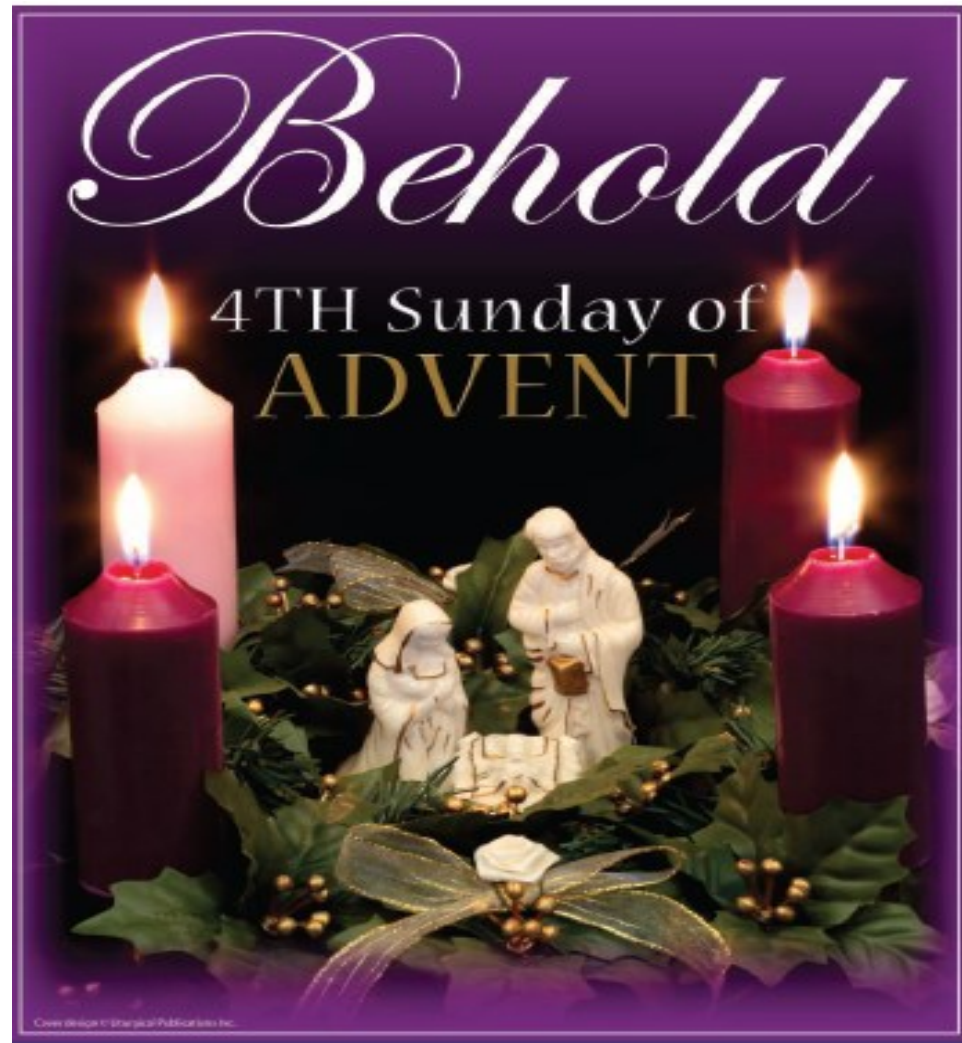
**Class of 2022**

Linda Stenhouse  
Jerry Kross  
Jackie Koch

Cover Art:  
Google Images



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Darrell Johnson, Pianist Jackie Koch, Office Administrator  
The WiFi Identity is FPCS-Guest and the password to connect is Grace4all.



**Sunday, December 19, 2021**

*First Presbyterian Church*

Simpsonville, SC

*"Growing Together in Faith – Loving and Serving in the World"*

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent

\* WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please remain seated for a time of silent meditation as we prepare to worship God. **The wearing of masks during service and singing hymns is optional.** NOTE: This service may be video recorded.*

*Please stand if you are able where asterisk.*

PRELUDE "Away in a Manger" arr. Page

\*OUR CALL TO WORSHIP Jerry Kross, Liturgist

Leader: Out of little Bethlehem comes one who is to rule in Israel.

**People: He shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

**People: God's mercy extends from generation to generation.**

**All: Holy is God's name!**

\*OPENING HYMN #16 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION

JOURNEY TO THE MANGER: John 1:1-5 Bill Marshall (PA)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: Reading: Gary & Jo Klein  
**PRAYER (ALL): Gracious God, we have many questions, urgent questions. We want to know when this time filled with so much upheaval will come to an end. Even then, you honor our questions to entrust us with your mission of bearing witness to Jesus Christ. Open our mouths that we may proclaim your praise! Guide our actions that we might embody the good news of our Savior. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

**CONFESSION OF OUR SIN** (unison prayer)

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed items for The Clinton Presbyterian Community through our "Santa's Senior Helper" collection. The Holiday Spirit has definitely shown us the love and warmth you share with our Senior population. The items were boxed up last Sunday and delivered to Jim Caprell to deliver to the Community. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support.

**FELLOWSHIP STATION:** The Fellowship Station (drinks, cookies, etc.) has been reinstated. If you would like to contribute refreshments one Sunday, please sign up on the sheet on the back table.

**NEW SEATING ARRANGEMENT:** Please note that the seating has been changed. Those who wish to Social Distance will sit on the right side (window side) of the Sanctuary; those who don't wish to Social Distance may sit on the left (wall side). Further changes will be forthcoming as we incorporate the Pray Ground into the Sanctuary.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!** Due to the changes to our worship service because of the pandemic, we are asking those who have served in the past as ushers and liturgists, to sign up for Sundays for the rest of this year. Sign-up sheets are located on the back table, along with the sign-up sheet for flowers. **We need more volunteers for these duties since some of our congregation have not yet returned to active worship due to COVID.**

**VIDEO RECORDINGS:** Video recordings of services that have been previously recorded are available on the Church's website: [www.firstpresssimpsonville.com](http://www.firstpresssimpsonville.com). Click on "Videos" in the menu at the top or click on the picture of a worship service in the lower right."

**PULPIT SUPPLY:**

Dec. 24: Beverly Kelly  
Dec. 26: No in-house service (link will be provided for Foothills Presbytery service.).  
Jan. 02: Carol Singing  
Jan. 09: Francis Womack

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 24th . Rev. Beverly Kelly will be preaching.

**STEWARDSHIP:** The 2022 pledge card communication packet contains a budget summary that supports our plan to move to Stated Supply. To begin this journey and support the budget, we must increase our annual giving by roughly \$22,000 or 32% (as compared to 2020 and 2021). These are the initial steps, and your financial support is critical. After you prayerfully consider and complete your 2022 Faith Promise, you may return it to the office (attention Bill Marshall) or place it in the offering plate any Sunday.

**2021 YEAR END GIVING / SUPPORT FOR FURNACE REPLACEMENT** – As you review your 2021 giving statements, please consider a year end gift to help defray the cost of replacing the sanctuary furnace earlier in November (\$19,995). If you are mailing in your gift, please have it post marked by Dec 31, 2021 or earlier to be considered as a 2021 gift for tax purposes. You can also leave your gift at the church office by Dec 31 with attention to Bill Marshall. If you have any questions, please contact Bill at 864-230-5268. If you are considering a gift of stock, please contact Bill directly to confirm we still have time to make arrangements to liquidate the stock and turn it into a taxable gift by Dec 31.

**bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world — not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**People: Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

**RESPONSE: "While We Are Waiting, Come"**

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting., come.*

**HYMN #14 "Savior of the Nations, Come"**

SILENT PRAYER: A few moments of silent communication with God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39-56

SERMON "Mothers of God" Rev. Beverly Kelly

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

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,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF OFFERING AND PRAYER (the offering plate is located on a back table in the sanctuary just inside the back double doors.)

OFFERTORY "Christmas Medley" arr. Bisharat/Purifoy

**\*The Doxology**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN #49: "Once in Royal David's City"

\*BENEDICTION

**RESPONSE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

***Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.***

POSTLUDE "See Amid the Winter's Snow" Goss

**WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!** Whether you are a long-time member or first time visitor, we are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about the First Presbyterian community, we invite you to contact us through our website [www.firstpressimpsonville.com](http://www.firstpressimpsonville.com), or by calling the church office at (864)963-8854.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS** are our lovely poinsettias. See bulletin insert for a list of those given in honor of and in memory of friends and loved ones.

**REFRESHMENTS** this week are provided by Ronnie Storch. Thank you.

**BIBLE STORY BAGS** are available for children during worship. See an usher if you would like one for your child to use. Please return the bag to an usher after worship.

We welcome to our pulpit today, The Reverend Beverly J. Kelly who is a native of Tryon, NC. She is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church, USA and before coming to the Upstate, served as the Director of Christian Education at Memorial Presbyterian Church in Midland, Michigan and pastor of First United Church of Christ in Bay City, Michigan. Thirteen years ago she and her husband, Burnett retired and moved to Sunset, SC. Shortly after moving, she began working to establish a monthly ecumenical worship service at the historic McKinney Chapel.

Beverly has been a volunteer Chaplain at Hospice of the Upstate, served on the Board of Oconee County Habitat for Humanity, and served on the Thornwell Home for Children Board of Trustees. She has served as Interim Director of Christian Education at Pickens Presbyterian Church and is presently Parish Associate there. She and Burnett have four children and fourteen wonderful grandchildren.

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK:** The Shelf family, Greg & Josie Shelton

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:** None

**LIFE IN THE CONGREGATION**

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Pastor Cassie, John Jackson; Jean Kirkland, Sue Marshall's mother; Michael Kolmer (Sue Marshall's brother); JSusan Medina; Chuck (Candie Vaitkeicius' brother); Robert Pryor (Roger Pryor's brother); Linda Marksberry (friend of Darrell & Roger); Cora Larsen (Linda Marshall's mother); Dan Mills (brother of Barb Daugherty—Missionary to Papua New Guinea); Ivy Bertuzzi; Pat Clark; Elizabeth Cooper; Dixie Suit (sister-in-law of Kitty Shealy); Roger Edney & Jen Gibson (relatives of Barb & Roger Daugherty). Do not hesitate to call or email the Church Office ([office@firstpressimpsonville.com](mailto:office@firstpressimpsonville.com)) about any pastoral concerns.