

FIRST (SCOTS) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Organized 1731

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 31, 2023, AT 11:15 A.M.



THE REV. DR. L. HOLTON SIEGLING, JR.
SENIOR PASTOR

THE REV. DR. JAMES T. ROGERS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

THE REV. DR. DANIEL W. MASSIE
PASTOR EMERITUS

MRS. MARY B. ROBINSON
PARISH ASSOCIATE

Serving God in Charleston and the world

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2023

11:15 A.M. SERVICE

THE VISION OF GOD

PRELUDE

"What Child is This"

Jerry Ray

(May the beginning of the prelude serve as a call to silent meditation and prayer.)

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Pastor Mary Robinson

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

"Come, Let Us Join"

K. Lee Scott

Timmi Winston, mezzo-soprano

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Elizabeth Snyder

One: Praise be to God who has given God's light to us.

All: Honor and praise to God for God's most precious gift.

One: The darkness that enveloped the people,

All: has been pierced by the Light.

One: Let us rejoice in God's blessed goodness!

All: Let us continually praise God with great joy and as we worship Him this day.

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"What Child is This"

Hymn No. 53

PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

CALL TO CONFESSION (A pause for silent confession follows.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

We confess, O God, that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas "high." So much time was spent in gathering, wrapping, and delivering gifts; in preparing for family gatherings and times with friends; in decorating our homes. But somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don't want that "high" to be over. We want to feel the "peace on earth" feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†GLORIA PATRI

"Glory be to the Father"

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (verse 1)

*Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; there He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.*

† Those who are able, please stand.

+ Those arriving for worship are invited to take their seats at this time.

THE TIME FOR CHILDREN

(Children through 5 years old are dismissed to the Massie Building for Children's Church.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gary Gildersleeve

THE WORD READ

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

(pew Bible, page 604)

New Testament: Luke 2:22-40

(pew Bible, page 833)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED "WAITING, WONDERING & WITNESSING" Pastor Mary Robinson

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

†THE APOSTLES' CREED (unison)

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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

†HYMN OF REFLECTION

"Song of Simeon"

Hymn No. 603

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Sugar Slabaugh

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Gesù Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon

(We celebrate that some people choose to give electronically or by texting FIRSTSCOTS to 73256.)

†DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn No. 592

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

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† Those who are able, please stand.

+ Those arriving for worship are invited to take their seats at this time.

†HYMN OF COMMITMENT	“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”	Hymn No. 9
†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
†BENEDICTION RESPONSE	“Amen”	McNeil Robinson II
†POSTLUDE	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	Gordon Young

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY
in the form of video recording and livestreaming. Your presence with us today signifies consent
to the possibility that your image may be included as part of our media broadcast.

FIRST (SCOTS) HISTORY TOURS

Please join us for a guided tour and brief history of First (Scots) following the conclusion
of worship. Please meet your Docent by the harpsichord in front of the sanctuary
following the service. The tour will last approximately 10-15 minutes.
Today's Docent is Karen Prewitt (11:15 AM).

ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE TODAY

GREETER: Ashley Nutley

COFFEE GREETER: Ann Anderson

USHERS: Dave Neff (Captain), David McCormack, Margaret McCormack, John McNeill

DEACONS: Adam Yount, Todd Plaxco

BEADLE: Greg Robinson

LAY READER: Gary Gildersleeve

ELDER ON CALL (Jan 1 – Jan 7) – Chris Bucknam (843) 324-3557

DEACON ON CALL (Jan 1 – Jan 7) – Abby Morrison (843) 801-9518

PASTOR ON CALL (Dec 29 – Jan 7) – Mary Robinson (843) 872-1527



The Reverend Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr., Senior Pastor
The Reverend Dr. James T. Rogers, Associate Pastor
Mrs. Mary Robinson, Parish Associate



Ricard Bordas, Director of Choral Music	Nancy Leftner, Interim Organist
Katherine Clarkson, Kirk Choristers Director	Karen Kuhn, Administrative Assistant
Scarlett Crawford, Church Administrator	Whitney Nilsson, Communications Coordinator
Jennifer Cromwell, Kindergarten Director	Shelby Olinger, Church Accountant
Linda Deeter, Administrative Assistant to the Pastors	Martha Ann Siegling, Christian Education Assistant
Nancy Hunsicker, Food Services Director	Garry Stone, Facility Maintenance Coordinator
Christina Wilhoit, Handbell Choir Director	

Exciting News!

Did you know that our last major renovation to the organ was completed in 1992? In late 2022 the Session created an Organ Commission to review the current state of the sanctuary organ and to make recommendations for repairs and renovations as deemed necessary. For nearly a year, the commission conducted a rigorous and comprehensive review of issues identified by vendors to determine what was necessary for reliability and tonal integrity. The commission and Session ultimately determined that an organ rehabilitation project with the replacement of some components is needed by 2025. This work will ensure the reliability of the organ in anticipation of our church family's 300-year celebration in 2031 and beyond. Thank you to Bob Dawson for chairing the commission and for the members of the commission which included Bob George, Don McDaniel, Karen Prewitt, John Robinson, Tom Slabaugh, and Darlene Daehler-Wilking. Dan Sansone and Holton Siegling served as ex-officio members of the commission.

The First (Scots) Memorial Garden is available as a place of inurnment for the ashes of members of First (Scots) and their immediate family members, as well as former members, ministers and former ministers, and their immediate family members. An applicant for a plot in the Memorial Garden shall have been a member of First (Scots) for not less than one year before the application for an inurnment agreement. Please reach out to our Church Administrator, Scarlett Crawford (scrawford@first-scots.org), for more information.

We welcome the two newest members of our staff, Dr. Tony Williams, who serves as our Director of Music and Organist, and Whitney Nilsson, who serves as our Communications and Social Media Coordinator. Please stop by the office and introduce yourself.



Dr. Tony Williams



Whitney Nilsson

Summer Plans?

Registration for the following summer youth trips is scheduled to open by January 1 through the weekly youth ministry e-mail (tinyurl.com/FirstScotsYouth):

- Montreat High School Youth Conference: June 8-15, 2024 (for 8th-12th graders)
- Chattanooga, TN Middle School Youth Mission Trip: June 24-29, 2024 (for 6th-8th graders)
- Chiapas, Mexico High School Youth Mission Trip: July 13-20, 2024 (for 9th-12th graders)
- Middle School Youth Conference at Maryville College: July 17-21, 2024 (for 5th-8th graders)



Presbyterian Women Board Meeting

The Presbyterian Women January Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Jane Davis. For additional information, please contact Debbie Rice-Marko, 843-367-8089 or dricemarko@gmail.com.



Presbyterian Women January Circle Meetings

The Betty Noble Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, at the home of Anne Smith. They will have a speaker on the Stephen Ministry. For more information, please contact Teresa Tarrant, teresatarrant@aol.com, Circle Leader.



The Seekers Circle will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, at the home of Sugar Slabaugh. They will continue their study of Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. For more information, please contact Anne Dukes, dukesanne62@gmail.com or 843-577-0479, Circle Co-Leader.

The Unbroken Circle will meet at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 9, at the home of Julie Smith. They will continue their study of Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. For more information, please contact Julie Cannell, jmcannell@aol.com, Circle Leader.

Christmas Sanctuary Decorations

Thanks to everyone who sent money for poinsettias to remember a loved one or honor someone. As a friendly reminder, the beautiful flowers may be picked up after the 11:15 a.m. worship service on December 31st.

Also, a special thank you to Debbie Rice-Marko for coordinating our church's efforts in this regard, as well as our volunteers who decorated the church & watered more than 100 poinsettias! You are all greatly appreciated!

