

FIRST (SCOTS) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

53 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Organized 1731

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024 AT 8:45 & 11:15 A.M.



THE REV. DR. L. HOLTON SIEGLING, JR.
SENIOR PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF

THE REV. DR. JAMES T. ROGERS
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

THE REV. DR. DANIEL W. MASSIE
PASTOR EMERITUS

PASTOR MARY B. ROBINSON
COMMISSIONED LAY PASTOR

Serving God in Charleston and the world

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

8:45 & 11:15 A.M. SERVICES

THE VISION OF GOD

PRELUDE

Prelude on "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Marilyn Biery

Organ (8:45)

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella"

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Bell Peal on "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. Linda Lamb

Handbell Choir (11:15)

Handbell Ringers: Ruffin Bailey, Caroline Barnes, Candace Brace, Helen Reid,

Brenda Dukes, Anne Smith, Elizabeth MacAnally, Anne Lewis

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

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

The Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Women

Jane Davis

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

"Rejoice in the Lord Always"

K. Lee Scott

Katherine Clarkson, soprano; Timmi Winston, mezzo soprano (8:45)

Kirk Choir (11:15)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. James T. Rogers

One: Glory be to God in the highest heaven, for the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them, light has shined!

All: All praise and honor be ascribed to Almighty God, for the light of his love has brought hope to our weary world!

One: With the company of angels, we proclaim the Messiah's birth and celebrate the difference Jesus makes in our lives!

All: We rejoice in the coming of God's anointed one. O come, O come, Emmanuel - God with us - forever!

†PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Hymn No. 22

PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty and Everlasting God, forgive us when we fail to understand the greatness of Christ's love. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, for all the times that our living witness to the love you have revealed in your Son not only pales by comparison but borders on neglect. With the dawn of each new day, open our eyes to the divine dimensions of your love; help us to love you and our neighbors more fully. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†GLORIA PATRI

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.

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE AND ADVENT WREATH

8:45 - Elizabeth and Ollie Burwell & Family

11:15 - Matt & Elizabeth Riddle & Family

CHILDREN'S HYMN

"The First Nowell"

Hymn No. 56 (Verse 6 & Refrain)

*Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made Heaven and Earth of nought, and with His blood our life hath bought.*

Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Now-ell, Born is the King of Israel.

THE TIME FOR CHILDREN

Trudy Marosok

THE TIME FOR TEENS

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

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Matt Spath (8:45)

Julie Cannell (11:15)

THE WORD READ

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

(pew Bible, page 555)

New Testament: Ephesians 3:18-19

(pew Bible, page 950)

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

"LOVE'S BEST COVERAGE PLAN"

The Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr.

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

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn No. 49

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Mary B. Robinson

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

(We celebrate that some choose to give electronically, by texting FIRSTSCOTS to 73256, or by scanning the QR code found on the bulletin insert.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"What Child Is This?"

arr. Lloyd Larson (8:45)

Katherine Clarkson, soprano; Timmi Winston, mezzo soprano

"Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"

arr. Alan Bullard (11:15)

Kirk Choir

† *Those who are able, please stand.*

†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**†HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn No. 38

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr.

†BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Forth in the Name of Christ We Go”

Heinrich Schütz/arr. Hal Hopson

†POSTLUDE

Fantasy on “Veni, Emmanuel”

Robert J. Powell

Large print hymnals and assisted listening devices are available upon request.

If you feel the Spirit of God moving you to affirm your faith in Jesus, please speak to a pastor following the service or contact them this week at the church.

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY

in the form of video recording and live streaming. 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 come and meet your docent at the harpsichord following the service for a 10-15 minute tour. Today's docents are Martha Jane Hudnall (8:45) and Baillie Pretzer (11:15)

ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE TODAY**8:45 A.M. GREETER:** Betsy Martin**COFFEE GREETER:** Margaret Ann Pearson

8:45 A.M. USHERS: Stephen Ham (Captain),
Alison Beskin, Whit Smith, Anne Smith,
John White, Sr., Janice Culp

8:45 A.M. DEACONS:

Chett McCubrey (Lead Deacon), Susan Leland

8:45 A.M. BEADLE: Bob Baldwin**8:45 A.M. LAY READER:** Matt Spath**11:15 A.M. GREETERS:**

Lynn Graves, Betsy Martin

11:15 A.M. USHERS:

Harold Davis (Captain), Brad Morrison,
Keith Blake, John Robinson

11:15 A.M. DEACONS:

Mayrelle Semken (Lead Deacon), Michelle Parks

11:15 A.M. BEADLE: Harry Robbins**11:15 A.M. LAY READER:** Julie Cannell**MEDIA MINISTRY:** Hewitt McKenzie**ELDER ON CALL (December 16 - 22)** - Tom Johnson (908) 295-3260**DEACON ON CALL (December 16 - 22)** - Margaret Ann Pearson (843) 864-9341**PASTOR ON CALL: (December 16 - 22)** - The Rev. Dr. James T. Rogers (843) 513-3717

The Reverend Dr. L. Holton Siegling, Jr., Senior Pastor
The Reverend Dr. James T. Rogers, Associate Pastor
Pastor Mary Robinson, Commissioned Lay Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Daniel W. Massie, Pastor Emeritus



Ricard Bordas, Director of Choral Music
Alison Beskin, Kirk Choristers Director
Dakota Carte, Administrative Assistant
Jack Crawford, Communications Coordinator
Scarlett Crawford, Church Administrator
Jennifer Cromwell, Kindergarten Director
Karen Kuhn, Administrative Assistant

Trudy Marosok, Interim Christian Education Director
Shelby Olinger, Church Accountant
Meredith Sharma, Cherub and Alleluia Choir Director
Martha Ann Siegling, Christian Education Assistant
Brandon Snow, Day Porter
Garry Stone, Facility Maintenance Coordinator
Christina Wilhoit, Handbell Choir Director

Dr. Anthony Williams, Director of Music and Organist

Welcome to First (Scots)

 @firstscots1731 & @firstscotsyouth  First Scots Presbyterian Church  www.first-scots.org

If you feel called, please prayerfully consider online giving, accessible using this QR code!



Calendar of Events December 15 - 22

Sunday, December 15

Dan Adams Class, 10 - 11 a.m.
The Mere Christian Class, 10 - 11 a.m.
Young Adult & Parenting Class, 10 - 11 a.m.
Progressive Dinner 6 - 9 p.m.

Monday, December 16

God's Gift Shop Counting, 10 - 1 p.m.
Prayer Group, 12 p.m.
Kindergarten Board Meeting,
12:30 - 2 p.m.
Bridge, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study
Christmas Party, 5 - 7 p.m.
Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study,
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Christian Education Meeting,
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Congregational Care & Finance Meeting,
6 - 7 p.m.
Session Meeting, 7 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 7 - 8 a.m.

Wednesday, December 18

Memorial Service - William Buchanan,
3:30 - 4 p.m.
Longest Night Service, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Stephen Ministry Training, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 19

Line Dancing, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Thursday Table Talk, 12 - 1 p.m.

Sunday, December 22

Dan Adams Class 10 - 11 a.m.
Mere Christian Class 10 - 11 a.m.
Young Adult & Parenting Class, 10 - 11 a.m.

Wednesday Night Announcements

This week, we will be having the Longest Night Service. There will be no Wednesday Night Supper, Kirk Club, or Taize. We hope you join us in worship. We thank those who have made these Wednesday night events a success and we look forward to more in 2025!

God's Gift Shop

God's Gift Shop's "Animal Crackers and Fair-Trade Chocolates" are available for everyone today in Molly Wier Hall. Christmas gift-giving traditions have brought love to nations around the world. In Sweden, St. Lucy's Day is celebrated December 13. The tradition involves a young girl adorned with an evergreen wreath and candles on her head who brings sweets to children. At First (Scots) we also have a wonderful tradition through God's Gift Shop. Stop by after worship, enjoy a treat, and choose gifts from the more than 80 items available to spread God's love through the 14 charities serving our community and others around the world.



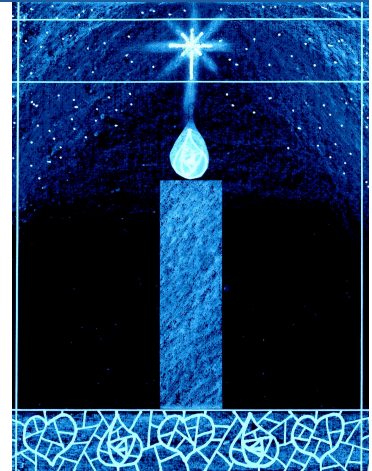
Progressive Dinner

The Progressive Dinner is today! Many thanks to the Davis, Domm, and Owens families for hosting the event. Contact Lizzie Hamilton at lizziehamilton@outlook.com or (843) 276-3466 with questions.

Longest Night Service

The Longest Night service is December 18 at 5:30 p.m. A light supper is served in Molly Wier Hall after worship. No RSVP or payment is required.

This service is an invitation to those who may feel alone or lost during Christmas, reminding them that community and consolation can always be found in the company of Christ. It is fitting that this service, taking place on the longest night of the year, should be situated so close to the birth of our savior.



Children are invited to participate in the Christmas story

All children are invited to participate in our 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service as a shepherd, animal, wise man, or angel. This family friendly service is about 30 minutes in length and tells the Christmas story through Scripture and Christmas hymns. Our high school and middle school youth will guide costumed children forward during the service. A limited number of costumes will be available on the portico for children to pick up as they enter the sanctuary or children may arrive already in costume.



Oh What Fun! Last Sunday the high school & middle school youth and youth advisors, along with members of our Christian Education Committee & church staff, hosted an Advent & Christmas Party for the kindergarteners through 5th graders at the church. Twenty-five children participated in the event with nativity set creating, ornament making, cookie decorating, card writing, a Thornwell service project, parachute games and dinner. Special thanks to Ansley Feussner, Catie Smith, Anne Jackson, & Elizabeth Riddle. Can't wait until next time!

Can You Be a Shepherd or a Wise Man? The annual Christmas Eve Family Service is Tuesday, December 24 at 5 p.m. and we need high school and middle school youth to serve as leaders. Use our Christmas Eve 5 p.m. Service Leadership SignUpGenius to review the available leadership parts and sign up. The rehearsal today will begin in the sanctuary at 12:15 p.m. and end in Molly Wier Hall at 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served. Questions? Contact James Rogers.



Youth Group Link Tree



Presbyterian Women

Save the date for January 11 "Saturday with Sisters" in Molly Wier Hall! Sherry Bradshaw of Back 9 Ministries will join us! She is an author, public speaker, and devout Christian. Scan the QR code to register, admission is \$40. Learn more at www.first-scots.org.

Christmas Line Dancing!

Those wishing to rock around the Christmas tree this year should join the Dancing Scotties as they line dance to Christmas tunes in December!



Classes are held in Molly Wier Hall on December 19 (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.). Please contact Pam Arnett (pampagearnett@gmail.com) if you have any questions!

Men's Bible Study & Table Talk

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study is on Tuesdays at 7 a.m. in Molly Wier Hall. **Table Talk** meets Thursdays at noon in Room 227-228 of the Massie Building. Both meetings are lead by Dr. Holton Siegling! If you cannot attend in person, Zoom links are in Kirk News.

We are currently studying St. John's Epistles!

Sunday School Parenting & Young Adult Class

Running until December 22 in room 203, a class will be viewing the four-part DVD series, "Who needs Christmas" by Andy Stanley. Contact Nan & Tod Williams at (864) 430-6047 or Whitney & Robert Stoddard at (843) 327-5157 to learn more.



First Scots Preschool and Kindergarten Admissions - The Admissions process for First (Scots) Kindergarten & Preschool for the 2025-2026 school year will be held in January. In accordance with our Admission policies, the school offers existing students an opportunity to enroll first. We then offer active church members and siblings of existing students an opportunity to enroll (provided spaces are available) prior to opening it to families in the community. For church members to receive this priority status, they must have been active for the previous 12 months, attended worship regularly and supported First (Scots) Presbyterian Church financially through a recorded pledge or contribution. Please contact Jenn Cromwell, Kindergarten Director, at (843) 722-8882 or at fspckindergarten@first-scots.org for more information. Tours are also available by appointment. Applications can be found in the reception area on the 2nd floor of the church.

Thornwell Drop-off - Headed to the upstate before Christmas? At our Advent workshop on Sunday night, the youth and children of First (Scots) put together 26 gift bags for teenagers at Thornwell Home (in Clinton, SC) and we are looking for an elf to deliver them! Thornwell is close to I-26 so could be a convenient stop along the way. If you or someone you know could help deliver, contact Trudy or Martha Ann in the church office. Thanks in advance!