

Morning Worship Service 9:00 AM

December 23, 2012

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Please adjust all electronic communication devices so as not to disrupt the service.
If you need to leave the Sanctuary, please use the exits at the back.*

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Reflection

Advent means “coming.” It is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s second coming as well as his first. The glowing flames of the candle remind us of the star of Bethlehem, and most of all, the Light of the World Jesus Christ.

Of the five candles, three are blue, one is rose, and one is white. The blue candles represent the attitude of hope and expectation with which we anticipate His coming. The rose candle, the Shepherd’s candle, stands for God’s love and faithfulness. The white candle in the center represents Christ’s holiness and perfection.

The First Candle is the prophecy candle. It reminds us that Christ’s coming was revealed by God through the prophets hundreds of years before Christ was born.

The Second Candle is the Bethlehem candle, which points to the Christ becoming man in Bethlehem.

The Third Candle, the rose candle, is the shepherd’s candle. We recognize that we, like the shepherds, must come to Christ, believe in Him, and tell this good news to others.

The Fourth Candle is the angel’s candle. It anticipates Christ’s second coming and focuses on His finished work of salvation.

Prelude

Noel - Daquin

Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord.

Call to Worship

Hebrews 1:5-9

Leader: For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

People: **And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”**

Leader: In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.”

People: **But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.**

ALL: **You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”**

**** Glorifying God in Song**

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Hymn #195

**** The Invocation**

**** The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The First Scripture Lesson

¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan— ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ³You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. ⁴For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:1-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

The Confession of Our Sins

“Receive my confession, O most loving and gracious Heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only hope for the salvation of my soul. Grant to me true contrition, so that day and night I may be sorry from the heart for my sins. Savior of the world, O good Jesus, who gave yourself to the death of the cross to save sinners, look upon me, most wretched of all sinners; have pity on me, and give me the light to know my sins, true sorrow for them, and a firm purpose of never committing them again. Amen.”

Assurance of Pardon

Musical Offering

The Second Scripture Lesson

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” ⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Revelation 21:1-8

Leader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Pastoral 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Christmas Canticles, A Cantata of Carols in Four Suites - Benjamin Harlan

Suite IV: The Light of Christ

Christ is the True Light

Christ is the true Light of the world.
His light can vanquish fears and darkness,
Can make blind eyes to see again,
Restore the broken, heal the afflicted
And grant you perfect peace.

O Morning Star

Morning Star, how fair and bright,
thou beamest forth in truth and light,
O Sovereign meek and lowly!
Thou Root of Jesse, David's Son,
My Lord and Master, Thou has won
My heart to serve Thee solely!
Thou art holy, fair and glorious, all-victorious,
Rich in blessing, rule in might o'er all possessing.

Thou heavenly Brightness! Light divine!
O deep within my heart now shine,
And make Thee there an altar!
Longing for Thee doth possess me,
Turn and bless me; here in sadness
Eye and heart long for Thy gladness!

The First Noel

The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing, praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have on heard high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains:
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Choir only

O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord! Christ the Lord!

The Third Scripture Lesson

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. ⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" ¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

John 1:1-18

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

**** Offertory Hymn**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Hymn #196

**** Offertory Statement & Prayer of Dedication**

²⁴ One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵ A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:24-25

The Offertory

Joy to the World - arr. Mark Hayes

*PLEASE FILL OUT THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN
TO INDICATE YOUR ATTENDANCE.*

**** The Doxology**

(Hymn # 731)

Children K4 – K5 may be dismissed to Children's Church.

The Message

Rev. John K. Keen

Senior Pastor

**** Glorifying God in Song**
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Hymn #203

**** Benediction**

Postlude
O Come All Ye Faithful - arr. John Innes

*** All who are able, please stand*

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Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome you in the name of Christ! You can find more information about us on our website at www.seminolepca.org. For questions or to share a prayer concern, call the office at 774-3881, ext. 700 or email us at: church@seminolepca.org.

Deacons' Mercy Line (813) 774-3881, Ext. 744

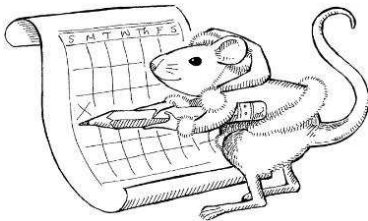
If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call this church phone extension; a deacon generally checks the line daily.

SPC Family Matters



Christmas Eve Worship Service - Please join us at **5:00 pm TOMORROW, Monday, December 24** for our annual candle light Christmas Eve Service.

Programming Note – Please be advised that Sunday School will be suspended today, Sunday, December 23 and Sunday, December 30 for the Christmas and New Year holidays. Our Worship Service will be held at its regular time, 9:00 am, followed by a time of fellowship at 10:15 am.



Church Office Schedule – Please note that the church office will be closed from December 24 through January 1; the office will reopen Wednesday, January 2. If you have contributions for the 2012 tax year, please simply mail them on or before the 31st of December (versus hand delivering to the office).

End of Year Contributions - This is a reminder that for any contributions to count for the 2012 tax year, they must be postmarked to the church by December 31, 2012. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Toenes (813-220-4095).



Costa Rica Mission Trip
(For High School Students)
Information Meeting



If you are a high school student or a parent of a high school student (rising 9th graders-outgoing 12th graders), and you have an interest or are just curious about the upcoming Costa Rica Missions Trip, this information meeting is for you! Questions, questions, questions will be answered ...

Cost? Safety? Purpose? Expectations? Preparations? Cross-Cultural Ministry? Language? Food? Et cetera... This brief meeting will present the basic purpose and expectations of this trip and answer any questions you may have. Come one, come all:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013
12:00 NOON; LUTHER TOWER



Boxed Offering Envelope Sets - Boxed offering envelope sets will be made available upon request. **Envelopes are NOT required or needed.** Only request a set if they assist you in keeping up with your tithe and contributions. Contact Jackie if you would like a set: jtoenes@seminolepca.org or leave a message at (813-220-4095).



Removing of the Greens

Saturday, January 12 @ 9 am – Unhanging of the Green & General Grounds Workday We'll need a bit of help taking down the decorations. Also, there are some projects for the grounds that need to be tended to such as weeding flower beds. Save the date and join in!

Senior Adult BIBLE STUDY

The SPC Seniors Covenant Group will resume weekly meetings in room 108 of the Snyder Building from 10:00 am to 11:30 am beginning on **Friday, January 4, 2013**. All current members are encouraged to join, as well as any

other senior adults who may be interested in studying God's Word. At our last meeting in May we completed Job, Chapter 16; we will pick up with Chapter 17 on Jan. 4. If you have any questions or for more info, call Larry Dickey at 813-695-3173.

MIGHTY GOD EVERLASTING WONDERFUL
FATHER COUNSELOR
PRINCE OF PEACE

Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

Prayer/Praise:

- Kim Dostal (DIL of Judy Dostal) & Alan Dostal (Judy's husband)
- Servy & Raquel Fernandez – parents' health issues; Servy's new business
- Amarnath Boodoosingh – better employment

Pray for our missionaries & supported ministries:

- Scott & Kathy Craig, MTW/Short-term Team Coordinators in Costa Rica
- Costa Rica Project: Birth of a New Presbyterian Church in Costa Rica
- Don & Judy Vander Ploeg, Wycliffe/JAARS; Papua New Guinea
- Dave Hawes, Navigators – training and development
- Jeff Lee, Reformed University Ministries @ USF
- Joel DeVictoria, Berea Presbyterian Church (Winter Haven)
- Steve Light, Sojourner Presbyterian Church (USF Area)

E-mail: prayer-list@lists.seminolepca.org

***NOTE: Sunday School is on hiatus today
for the Christmas Holiday***

Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

Class/Grade	Class Teacher(s)	Class Room
Ages 2-3 / Toddlers	Bev Thomson	#115
Ages 4-5 / K4-K5	Jane Lambers & Liz Hickerson	#109
Ages 6-7 / 1 st - 2 nd Grade	Lisa Johnson & Laura Strickland	#105
Ages 8-10 / 3 rd -5 th Grade	Therese McKenzie & Cathy Armstrong	#107
Jr. High / 6 th -8 th Grade	Steve Pothoven & Brian Waugh	The Tower
Sr. High / 9 th -12 th Grade	Danny Dalton	#101
Adult – Walden Class	Matthew McKenzie	#108
Adult – Church & Sacraments	Ben Lambers	#102
Adult – Esther	Joe DeNitto	Church Office

Current Adult Classes

Walden Class – Room 108

Teacher: Matthew McKenzie

The Walden class is made up of folks of all ages, from young adult to those in their late eighties. From a group such as that you may well imagine the range of perspective the discussions take. This class is a Bible study class, open to class discussion, questions, and comments. We study Old Testament as well as New testament books. The length of time (weeks) to complete a Study depends on the class participation and the discussion level generated by a particular text. We do keep a schedule, but are open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit and follow where scripture leads. If this sounds like your kind of Bible study then by all means come and join us. Our worship service is conducive to the study of solid spiritual food, the encouragement to practice what we learn and to follow the leading of Micah 6:8: "To act justly, To love mercy, To walk humbly with our God". The Walden class meets in each Sunday morning from 10:45 to 11:45 with greetings, prayer for the needs of God's people, and Bible study. Come join us, you are most welcome!

Theology 401: The Church and Sacraments - Room 102

Teacher: Ben Lambers

This is the fourth of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith. We will cover chapters #25-33 discussing topics such as, "What does it mean to be a member of the church?" "What are the Sacraments?" "How do the Sacraments effect my faith?" "What is church discipline?" "What happens to Christians when they die?" and "What exactly is the Last Judgment?" Do you have a biblically informed answer to these questions? Come join us as we conclude our study of the best summary of Sacred Scriptures teachings. *(Please note, attendance at prior Westminster Confession classes is not required to benefit from this session.)*

Esther – Church Office

Teacher: Joe DeNitto

Come and join Joe DeNitto as he leads us through the book of Esther. This book tells the story of a Jewish woman who became queen of Persia and thwarted a plan to commit genocide against her people. Though God is not mentioned specifically even once, his providential care and covenantal presence saturates the entire book. This teaches us that the hand of God is active in all our circumstances. Nothing is merely a coincidence. God is the sovereign Ruler of the universe and we can be assured and comforted that His plans will not be moved by the actions of mere men.

This Week at SPC ~ December 23 - 29

SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:00 am
Fellowship Time, 10:15 am

MONDAY: Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm

TUESDAY: Christmas Day

Dec 24 – Jan 1: Church Office Closed



January 4: Seniors Covenant Group, 10 am

January 6: Costa Rica Info Meeting; 12 pm; Luther Tower

January 8: Session Meeting, 7 pm

January 12: Removal of the Greens, 9 am



SEMINOLE AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 164

Last Sunday's Offering: \$12,288.95

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. 2 Cor. 8:12

Volunteers

Children's Worship Volunteers

	<u><i>Teacher</i></u>	<u><i>Helper</i></u>	<u><i>Banner Bearer</i></u>
<i>Today:</i>	<i>Randa Gravanti</i>	<i>Abby Johnson</i>	<i>Nikolas Royer</i>
<i>Next Week:</i>	<i>Therese McKenzie</i>	<i>John McKenzie</i>	<i>Dominick Zak</i>
<i>Jan. 6:</i>	<i>Kelly Fernandez</i>	<i>Sadie Edwards</i>	<i>Nora Fernandez</i>

Children's Church for children in K4/K5 meets in Room 109.

Coffee Volunteers

Coffee Volunteers

<i>Today:</i>	<i>Randa Gravanti</i>
<i>Next Week:</i>	<i>Andrea Cawley</i>
<i>Jan. 6:</i>	<i>Bill Cutler</i>

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

<i>Anna Claire Lambers 12/3</i>	<i>Lesley McKenzie 12/20</i>
<i>Alex Fernandez 12/10</i>	<i>Bryson Pothoven 12/22</i>
<i>Jared Frail 12/12</i>	<i>Joey Hickerson 12/23</i>
<i>Abby Johnson 12/15</i>	<i>Eva White 12/24</i>
<i>Pat Bardin 12/16</i>	<i>Grace Morton 12/26</i>
<i>Dave Bardin 12/17</i>	<i>Hannah Johnson 12/27</i>
<i>Chris Kladakis 12/17</i>	<i>Rainey Hoopes 12/29</i>
<i>Jane Lambers 12/20</i>	<i>Andrea Cawley 12/31</i>
<i>Judy Wildeboer 12/20</i>	

Anniversaries

Tom & Andrea Cawley 12/20

Dave & Pat Bardin 12/29