

Morning Worship Service 9:00 AM

December 8, 2013

Second 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

Prelude

I Wonder as I Wander - arr. Mark Hayes

Let us quiet our hearts before the Lord.

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. The lighting of the candles calls us to worship and sets this time apart as holy.

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Steve White Family

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

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"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." *Micah 5:2*

For 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. *Isaiah 9:6*

## **\*\* Glorifying God in Song**

*The First Noel*

Choir and Congregation

### **Verse 1 – Congregation**

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.

### **Verse 2 – Choir**

### **Verse 3 – Congregation**

And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from the country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

### **Verse 4 – Choir**

*continued...*

### **Verse 5 – Congregation**

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the king of Israel.

### **Verse 6 – Congregation**

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

## **\*\* 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

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. 8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, 10 and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35

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

## The Confession of Our Sins

*Mighty God, you came in weakness:*

*forgive our grasping for power.*

*Prince of Peace, you came in humility:*

*forgive us for exalting ourselves.*

*Everlasting Father, you came in poverty:*

*forgive us for wanting more than others.*

*Wonderful Counselor, you came in gentleness:*

*forgive us for the anger we speak and the pain we cause.*

*Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today:*

*forgive us, heal us, make us new;*

*We join the angels in singing your praises this Christmas and all the days to come.*

(based on Isaiah 9:6)

# Assurance of Pardon

## The First Anthem

### *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before Him bow; and He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and man is blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave! Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## The Second Scripture Lesson

7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! 10 Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:7-10

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

## **Musical Offering**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* - arr. Charles Callahan

### **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.*

### **The Third Scripture Lesson**

2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples 3 to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" 4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 6 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." 7 As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 8 If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. 9 Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 11 I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:2-11

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

## **The Second Anthem**

### *Away in a Manger*

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

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 side till the morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

## **\*\* Glorifying God in Song**

### *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Choir and Congregation

#### **Verse 1 – Congregation**

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.

#### **Verse 2 – Congregation**

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.

#### **Verse 3 – Choir**

*continued...*

#### **Verse 4 - Congregation**

The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid, And in a manger laid.

#### **Verse 5 - Congregation**

“All glory be to God on high,  
And to the Earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth from Heaven to men  
Begin and never cease, Begin and never cease!”

### **\*\* Offertory Statement & Prayer of Dedication**

I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. 18 O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.

1 Chronicles 29:17

### **The Offertory**

*Sheep May Safely Graze - J.S. Bach*

*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. Danny Dalton*  
*Associate Pastor*

**\*\* Glorifying God in Song**  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
Hymn #196

**\*\* Benediction**

**Postlude**  
*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come –*  
Johann Gottfried Walter

# Sermon Notes

## Advent Joy

### *Isaiah 35*

1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, 2 it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. 3 Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; 4 say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." 5 Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. 6 Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. 8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, 10 and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**1. Rejoice that through the advent of Jesus, the planet is being**

\_\_\_\_\_. (v.1-2)

**2. Rejoice that through the advent of Jesus, people are being**

\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 3-7)

**3. Rejoice that through the advent of Jesus, a pathway for the redeemed**

is \_\_\_\_\_. (v.8-10)

## *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](http://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](mailto: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



### **Congregational Meeting** *TODAY, Sunday, December 8*

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting **TODAY immediately after the morning worship service**. The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2014 Church Budget to the congregation and entertain and address any questions not already answered previously; and, 2) to elect and seat/reseat trustees of the corporation. No other business will be discussed at this meeting (per our *Book of Church Order*).

### **MS/HS Youth Progressive Dinner Christmas Party!** *TONIGHT, Sunday, December 8, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM*

Please meet at the church at 5 pm, then have your parents pick you up at the Dalton's home at 9:00 pm (5903 N Tampa St.). Don't forget a new wrapped gift valued at \$5 or less.



### **Program Note Reminder** *No Sunday School December 22 & 29*

Just a reminder that we will not have Sunday School on December 22 or 29 due to the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, please do join us for our Fellowship Time immediately after the service.



# Ladies



You are cordially invited to attend  
Seminole Presbyterian Church Women's Ministry  
**Christmas Party and Gift Drive**

Date: Monday, December 16, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: 12705 Waterbury Lane

Please RSVP by Friday, December 13 to Kelly Fernandez at  
(813) 420-8662 or [kellyjfernandez@hotmail.com](mailto:kellyjfernandez@hotmail.com).

Please bring 2 dozen cookies if you would like to participate in the Cookie Exchange. Gift boxes will be available if you would like to gift wrap your cookies.



Christmas Gift Drive  
Metropolitan Ministries provided holiday assistance to over 22,000 families and toys to over 23,000 children in 2012. This year, the need is even greater, and MM is especially seeking gifts for children ages 12-17.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spread the love and joy of Christ this Christmas! If you'd like to help, bring an unwrapped gift to the Christmas party. If you are unable to attend the Christmas party, you can still participate—just bring your unwrapped gift to Kelly on Sunday, December 15th.



**Christmas Eve Worship Service**  
Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM

Please join us at 5:00 pm on **Tuesday, December 24** for our annual candle light Christmas Eve Service.

## Order Your Poinsettia

It's time to place your orders for poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas. The cost of each plant is **\$7.00**.

If you would like to place an order please complete this form, tear it out of the bulletin, and place it along with your payment check (made payable to SPC; marked poinsettias) in the offering plate:

1. Quantity Desired \_\_\_\_\_

2. How the plant(s) is to be dedicated:

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The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, December 8.**

Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.



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## Prayer Requests & Praise Reports

### Pray for our missionaries & supported ministries:

- Scott & Kathy Craig, MTW/Short-term Team Coordinators (Costa Rica)
- Costa Rica Mission Project: Birth of a New Presbyterian Church
- Don & Judy Vander Ploeg, Wycliffe/JAARS (Papua New Guinea)
- Dave & Page Hawes, Navigators – training and development nationwide
- 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](mailto:prayer-list@lists.seminolepca.org)

## Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

| Class/Grade                                        | Class Teacher(s)              | Class Room    |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Ages 2-3 / Toddlers                                | Bev Thomson                   | #115          |
| Ages 4-5 / K4-K5                                   | Cathy Gartman & Tami Lang     | #109          |
| Ages 6-7 / 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade | Rainey Hoopes & Lucas Lambers | #105          |
| Ages 8-10 / 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Diane Keen & Sara Royer       | #107          |
| Jr. High / 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade  | Danny Dalton                  | #101          |
| Sr. High / 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade | Ben Lambers                   | The Tower     |
| Adult – Walden Class                               | Matthew McKenzie              | #108          |
| Adult – Life of David                              | Gregg Quick                   | #102          |
| Adult – TULIP                                      | Joe DeNitto                   | Church Office |

## Youth Sunday School Classes

### *High School*

#### **Theology 101: God and Man**

*Teacher: Ben Lambers*

This is the first of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF). They do not have to be taken in order. This class covers chapters 1-6 of the WCF. Elder Ben Lambers will help our students to understand the doctrines of Holy Scripture, God and the Trinity, God's Eternal Decree, Creation, Providence, and the Fall. This class will be a rich feast of enjoying God's awesomeness.

- During this quarter we will study WCF Chapters # 1-7
- We will have 10 lessons. No Class on December 22 or 29.
- Students will be challenged to complete weekly homework.

### *Middle School*

#### **Promises, Promises (all about the Covenant)**

*Teacher: Danny Dalton*

Have you ever made a promise and kept it? Have you ever broke a promise? In this course we will see that God made a promise to save His people. He calls this promise a covenant. A covenant is like an agreement between two or more people. However, the good news is that even when we broke our end of the covenant, God didn't break his part. In fact, through Jesus Christ, he kept both his part and our part! Salvation is all of God and Jesus is the ultimate covenant keeper. Come and learn the story of God working out this Good News in history as we make our way through this Great Commission curriculum!





## Adult Sunday School Classes

### **Walden Class – Room 108**

*Teacher: Matthew McKenzie*

The Walden Class, which is currently studying Galatians, offers a combination of bible study and social interaction, as participants share their lives with one another through prayer requests, praise reports, brief devotionals, and a thirty-minute bible lesson each Sunday. The class offers a greater degree of flexibility for those desiring to engage in a study of a particular book of the bible, which may exceed the quarterly limitations of other classes, *e.g. a four or five month study through The Gospel of Matthew or the book of Revelation, etc.* This relaxing pace of the Walden Class allows for a comprehensive study of Sacred Scripture in the context of thoughtful dialog, question and answer, and practical application of God's Word in connection to personal and cultural situation and circumstances.

### **The Life of David – Room 102**

*Teacher: Gregg Quick*

Shepherd, hymn-writer and murderer - God chose a man who would fill each of these roles to sit on the throne of Israel. And it was through his family that the great king of the Jews would come. In this Dr. R.C. Sproul adapted series, we will examine the life of David and his character as revealed in Scripture. In honestly evaluating this flawed leader, we will be reminded that David's repentance is what made him a man after God's own heart.

### **TULIP – Church Office**

*Teacher: Joe DeNitto*

#### The Five Points of Calvinism



**T**This class will explore the history and meaning of Calvinism.

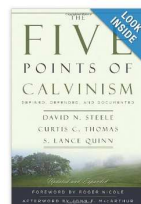
**U**nder no circumstances will we try to force anyone to accept this view.

**L**ots of scripture will be studied to support each part of the ideas presented.

**I**n our studies, we will examine both the details as well as the overview of the materials.

**P**lease consider taking this important and informative class.

Come join Elder Joe DeNitto in the church office. Our intention is for us all to better understand Reformed thought in the Bible and how it applies to our everyday lives.



## This Week at SPC ~ Dec. 8 - 14

Morning Worship, 9:00 am  
 Congregational Meeting, following worship  
 Fellowship Time, 10:15 am  
 Sunday School, 10:45 am

MS/HS Progressive Dinner, 5 pm

## Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

## Seniors Covenant Group, 10 am

[illegible]

Women's Christmas Party, 7 pm

Christmas Eve / *Church Offices Closed*

Christmas Eve Service, 5pm

**Christmas Day / Church Offices Closed**

[illegible]

Last Sunday's Attendance: 135

**Last Sunday's Offering: \$11,644.53**

*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

## ***Greeters / Ordained Officer***

|                                 | <u><b>December</b></u>                       | <u><b>January</b></u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <u><b>Greeters:</b></u>         | Bryan Toenes<br>Rick Brownlee<br>Jared Frail | Alex Fernandez Family |
| <u><b>Ordained Officer:</b></u> | Servy Fernandez                              | Alex Fernandez        |

## ***Children's Worship Volunteers***

|            | <u><b>Teacher</b></u> | <u><b>Helper</b></u> | <u><b>Banner Bearer</b></u> |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Today:     | Therese McKenzie      | Paul McKenzie        | Nikolas Royer               |
| Next Week: | Laura Strickland      | Emily Strickland     | Dominick Zak                |
| Dec. 22:   | Donna Waugh           | Sadie Edwards        | Nikolas Royer               |

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

## ***Coffee Volunteers***

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| Today:     | Andrea Cawley  |
| Next Week: | Karen Collins  |
| Dec. 22:   | Randa Gravanti |

**WE**  **VOLUNTEERS**

## ***Nursery Volunteers***

|            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| Today:     | Adrienne / Jane Lambers |
| Next Week: | Therese McKenzie        |
| Dec. 22:   | Kelly Fernandez         |

## ***Fellowship Snacks***

| <u><b>Next Week – Dec. 15:</b></u> | <u><b>Dec. 22:</b></u>        |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marsha Craig                       | Beverly Thomson               |
| Therese McKenzie                   | Sheila Colbert                |
| Randa Gravanti                     | Judy Wildeboer                |
| Karen Collins                      | Ines Biedronski Lopez de Lara |

# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Anna Claire Lambers 12/3

Alex Fernandez 12/10

Jared Frail 12/12

Abby Johnson 12/15

Pat Bardin 12/16

Dave Bardin 12/17

Chris Kladakis 12/17

Jane Lambers 12/20

Judy Wildeboer 12/20

Lesley McKenzie 12/20

Bryson Pothoven 12/22

Joey Hickerson 12/23

Eva White 12/24

Grace Morton 12/26

Hannah Johnson 12/27

Rainey Hoopes 12/29

Andrea Cawley 12/31

## Anniversaries

Tom & Andrea Cawley 12/20

Jay & Marissa Fontanini 12/28

Dave & Pat Bardin 12/29



## Anniversaries and Birthdays