

Morning Worship Service
December 6, 2015 - 9:00 AM
Second Day 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 in the narthex.*

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo - Franz Liszt
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 Candle

Waugh Family

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



"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** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Choir and Congregation

Verse 1 – Congregation

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

Verse 2 - Choir

Verse 1 – Congregation

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

**** 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 Gloria Patri**

Hymn # 734

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 First Scripture Lesson

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." 9 You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Confession of Our Sins

(If you are able, we invite you to kneel so that our outward posture reflects our inward attitude)

"Jesus, for your name sake, do that which your name proclaims. Jesus, pardon the pride that pains you and look upon the unhappy one that calls upon your tender name—name of comfort, name of delight, and to sinners, name of blessed hope. For what does your name mean, Jesus, but Savior? Therefore, for your name's sake, be to me, Jesus, a merciful Savior."

--Prayer of St. Augustine

Assurance of Pardon

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Musical Offering

The Second Scripture Lesson

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:1-11

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.

Anthem

O Holy Night – arr. Joseph Martin

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees. O hear the angels voices.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another.
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we.
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever.
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night divine, O night, O night divine.
O holy night! O wondrous night! O night divine!

The Third Scripture Lesson

20 Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. 21 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." 25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. 27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

(Continued...)

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:20-30

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

**** Glorifying God in Song**
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Choir and Congregation

Verse 1 – Congregation

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2 – Choir

Verse 3 – Congregation

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

The Offertory

O Come, All Ye Faithful - Mark Hayes

*Please fill out the connection card in the bulletin
to indicate your attendance.*

**** The Doxology**

Hymn # 731

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here
below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy
Ghost. Amen.*

Children K4 – 2nd Grades may be dismissed to Children's Church.

The Message

Rev. John K. Keen

Senior Pastor

**** Glorifying God in Song**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Hymn # 193

(v. 1-2)

**The Words of Institution
&
The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper**

*Wine is served in the outer ring;
Grape juice in the inner rings.
Communion bread is gluten-free.*

**** Glorifying God in Song**
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
Hymn # 193
(v. 3-4)

*** Benediction**

Postlude
Pastorale in F Major - J.S. Bach

***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

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 respond on the tan slip or email the following information to church@seminolepca.org:

1. Quantity Desired
2. How the plant(s) is to be dedicated.



Please make your checks payable to SPC (marked Poinsettias), and place them in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering is **TODAY**. Plants may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service.

Kid Builders Christmas Party

December 6th
5:00-7:00 PM

There will be fun Christmas activities and pizza will be provided.

Youth Ice Skating Christmas Party

TONIGHT 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

A few tips for those already signed up:

- KNOW YOUR SHOE SIZE!
- Wear long pants (or at least long socks) as the ice skates will rub your shins
- If you are a beginner at ice skating, wear long pants and prepare to get wet.



Required: Notarized Medical/Release form (pick forms up from church office, Luther Tower, or download

from website. Note: Church member Andy Thomson is a notary and can notarize these forms at no charge!)

Bring: A wrapped gift (no more than \$5 in value)

Details:

- Meet at the church office by 5:00 PM. We will provide transportation to ice rink and then to the Williams' home for dinner and gift exchange.
- Parents pick up your son/daughter at the Williams' home at 9:00 PM (3901 Willowtree Place, Tampa. 33624)

Congregational Meeting

Please make plans to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 13, immediately after the morning worship service.** The purpose of this meeting is: 1) present the 2016 Church Budget to the congregation and entertain and address any questions not already answered previously; 2) elect new officers; and, 3) to elect and seat/reseat trustees of the corporation. No other business will be discussed at this meeting (per our *Book of Church Order*).



Christmas Eve Worship Service

Thursday, December 24th 6:30 PM

Please join us at **6:30 pm** on **Thursday, December 24** for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

New Youth Sunday School Classes Beginning TODAY

High school: Theology 301: Right Living and Worship

Teacher: Ben Lambers (11 classes)

This is the third of four classes as we study the Westminster Confession of Faith. We will cover chapters #16-24 and discuss topics such as, “What makes a good work good?” “Can Christians lose their salvation?” “Can someone have full assurance that they are saved?” In addition to these very practical questions we will also discuss God’s Law, Christian freedom, worship, and the Sabbath, oaths & vows, how we are to relate to our government, and marriage. Students will be challenged to complete weekly homework with the goal that this course leads them to deeper spiritual maturity and to become better at applying Scripture to all of life.

Middle School: Shorter Catechism- Doctrine of Covenant & Christology

Teacher: Danny Dalton (11 classes)

This class is the second installment of our journey through the Westminster Shorter Catechism. We will be studying questions 12-28. Students will be challenged to memorize eleven of these questions (14, 16, 18, and 21-28). We will be looking at the importance of studying doctrine and specifically what Scripture teaches about God’s Covenant of Life, the Fall of Man into Sin, The Covenant of Grace, and Christ. However, the goal of this course is not just to study and know theology, but that it will affect the way we live! James 1:22 states that we are not only to be hearers of the Word (i.e., danger of hypocritical intellectualism), but we are to do what it says (i.e., be authentically transformed in all of life). Therefore, let’s fall in love with God as we learn about his love for us and how Jesus saves us as our Prophet, Priest, and King!

New Adult Sunday School Classes

Beginning TODAY

Walden Class - Knowing The God Who Is

Room 108

Teacher: John Keen

Sacred Scripture has much to say about the character and actions of the Triune God, as well as the believer's response to as much. This class will explore many aspects of our relationship to God, as outlined in the Old and New Testament. We'll first look at the obstacles people experience in knowing God, then we'll examine the origin and maintenance of an authentic relationship to God, and finally we'll study the character of God. In every lesson, we will focus on knowing God personally and responding to him appropriately in every aspect of our lives.

Worldviews in Conflict

Church Office

Teacher: Joe DeNitto

This world is a battlefield in the arena of ideas. The prize is the heart and mind of humankind. In this class, we will outline the Christian way of looking at God, self, and the world. We will hold the Christian worldview up against the tests of reason, logic, and experience, particularly discussing the problems of evil and the alleged "nonsense" of the historic Christian doctrines, and of Jesus' incarnation and resurrection. We will attempt to equip you intellectually to defend the faith on that battlefield.

We will examine the attractions to our generation of naturalism and the New Age movement, pointing out their weaknesses and pitfalls as well as those of older worldviews, including secularism, hedonism, existentialism, and pragmatism.

Colossians

Room 102

Teacher: Steve Strickland

At times, Christians can become discontented with the Christian life. Is this all there is? We desire a deeper experience of God, and the church at Colossae was no different. Join us as we study Paul's letter to this young church and are reminded that we are complete in Christ. As we seek Christ in all His glory, we are able to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

Supported Missionaries and Ministries

Below are missionaries and ministries that SPC supports financially. We encourage you to pray for them and consider supporting them yourself.

***This same information can be found on the Missions tab of our website.**

- Scott & Kathy Craig, MTW/Short-term Team Coordinators (Costa Rica), (#11130); Mission to the World, PO Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284
- Costa Rica Mission Project: Birth of a New Presbyterian Church, (Project #92760); Mission to the World, PO Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284
- Don & Judy Vander Ploeg, Wycliffe/JAARS (North Carolina), (Member Account #222590), Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, FL 32862-8200
- Dave & Page Hawes, Navigators – training and development nationwide (Member Account 35857), PO Box 6079, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679
- Jeff Lee, Reformed University Ministries @ USF
Reformed University Ministries, PO Box 890004, Charlotte, NC 28289-0004
(Please include the name of campus, or individual you would like us to allocate the gift to)
- Joel De Victoria
Seminary Fund c/o Covenant Presbyterian, 210 Poppel Dr., Lakeland, FL 33813
- Steve Light, Sojourner Presbyterian Church (USF Area)
Sojourner Presbyterian Church, 350 South Hyde Park Avenue,
Tampa, Florida 33606

Christian Education – Adults, Youth, & Children

Class/Grade	Class Teacher(s)	Class Room
Ages 2-3/Toddlers	Bev Thomson	#115
Ages 4-7 / K4/K5 -2 nd Grade	Tami Lang & Jane Lambers	#105
Ages 8-10 /3 rd – 5 th Grade	Kelly Fernandez & Gail Chang	#107
Middle School / 6 th -8 th Grade	Danny Dalton	#109
High School / 9th -12 th Grade	Ben Lambers	The Tower
Adult – Walden Class	John Keen	#108
Adult – Worldviews in Conflict	Joe DeNitto	Church Office
Adult – Colossians	Steve Strickland	#102

This Week at SPC ~ December 6 – December 12

SUNDAY: Morning Worship, 9:00 am
Fellowship Time, 10:15 am
Kid Builders Christmas Party, 5:00 pm
Youth Christmas Party, 5:00 pm

TUESDAY: Ladies' Bible Study, 9:30 am
Session Meeting, 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

FRIDAY: Senior Group, 10:00 am



SEMINOLE AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 129

Last Sunday's Offering: \$ 8,608.00

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>December</u>	<u>January</u>
<u>Greeters:</u>	Bryan Toenes	Fernandez Family
<u>Ordained Officer:</u>	Servy Fernandez	Alex Fernandez
<u>Communion Set-up:</u>	Ken Jackson	Therese McKenzie

Children's Worship Volunteers

	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Helper</u>	<u>Banner Bearer</u>
Today:	Gail Chang	Patrick Chang	Eleanor Fernandez
Dec. 13:	Sara Royer	Marcy Edwards	Nikolas Royer
Dec. 20:	Nicholas Lambers	Kaleigh Williams	Eleanor Fernandez

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

Coffee Volunteers

Today:	Brian Waugh
Dec. 13:	Andy Thomson
Dec. 20:	Larry Dickey

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

Nursery Volunteers

Today:	Tami Lang
Dec. 13:	Laura Strickland
Dec. 20:	Liz Hickerson

Fellowship Snacks

<u>Next Week – Dec. 13:</u> Beverly Thomson Sheila Colbert Judy Wildeboer Jamie Dalton	<u>Dec. 20:</u> Gail Chang Eva White Kelly Melendi Carol Moberg
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Anniversaries
and Birthdays