

Morning Worship Service

December 13, 2015 - 9:00 AM

Third 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

Silent Night - Franz Gruber/John Innes

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.

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Don and Glee Hamilton

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



8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. *Luke 2:8-20*

**** Glorifying God in Song Once in Royal David's City**

Hymn # 225

**** 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

14 Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 17 The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." 18 "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. 19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. 20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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)

O God of all goodness, what shall we render to thee for the gift of gifts, thine own dear Son, our redeemer, proxy, surety, and substitute?

Herein is love: he came below to raise me above, was born like me that I might become like him.

Herein is wisdom: when I was undone, with no will to return to him, he came, God-incarnate, to save me from my sin, to shed satisfying blood on my behalf, to work out perfect righteousness for me.

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore and serve, to the glory of Thy holy Name. AMEN

-Adapted from The Valley of Vision p.16

Assurance of Pardon

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Musical Offering

He Shall Feed His Flock

The Second Scripture Lesson

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

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

Gaudete (Rejoice) - Anders Ohrwall

Rejoice

Rejoice! Christ Jesus is born, born of virgin Mary, we rejoice!

Sinfonia

In Dulci Jubilo

In dulci jubilo, (*In sweet jubilation*)
let us our homage show; Our heart's joy reclineth,
 in praesepio, (*in a manger*)
 and like a bright star shineth,
 matris in gremio (*in the Mother's lap*)
Alpha es et O! (*Thou art Alpha and Omega*)

O Jesu parvule! (*O tiny Jesus*)
 my heart is sore for Thee!

Hear me, I beseech Thee, O puer optimus! (*O best of boys*)
 My prayer let it reach Thee,
O Princeps gloriae! (*O Prince of Glory*)
Trahe me post te! (*Draw me after Thee*)

Ubi sunt gaudia, (*Where are joys*)
 if that they be not there?
 Angels there are singing
 nova cantica, (*new songs*)
 There the bells are ringing,
 in regis curia. (*in the King's court*)
 O, that we were there!

The Third Scripture Lesson

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.
2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

(Continued...)

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:1-10

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

**** Offertory Hymn Medley** **Away in a Manger**

Verse 1 & 2 - Congregation

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 a sleep on the hay.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

Silent Night

Verse 1 - Choir

Verse 2 – Congregation

Silent night, Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly, hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

** Offertory Statement & Prayer of Dedication

10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'ly 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**
Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Hymn # 218

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing - Lani Smith

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

Congregational Meeting

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 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.



Adult Sunday School Classes

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).

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.

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.

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 – Colossians	Steve Strickland	#102
Adult – Worldviews in Conflict	Joe DeNitto	Church Office
Adult – Walden Class	John Keen	#108

This Week at SPC ~ December 13 – December 19

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

WEDNESDAY: Choir Practice, 7:30 pm

FRIDAY: Senior Group, 10:00 am



SEMINOLE AT WORK AND WORSHIP

Last Sunday's Attendance: 137

Last Sunday's Offering: \$12,572.55

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:	Sara Royer	Marcy Edwards	Nikolas Royer
Dec. 20:	Nicholas Lambers	Kaleigh Williams	Eleanor Fernandez
Dec. 27:	Eva White	Joey Hickerson	Nikolas Royer

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

Coffee Volunteers

Today:	Andy Thomson
Dec. 20:	Larry Dickey
Dec. 27:	Steve Strickland



Nursery Volunteers

Today:	Laura Strickland
Dec. 20:	Liz Hickerson
Dec. 27:	Raquel Fernandez

Fellowship Snacks

<u>Next Week – Dec. 20:</u>	<u>Dec. 27:</u>
Gail Chang	Molly Colhouer
Eva White	Tami Pothoven
Kelly Melendi	Karen Collins
Carol Moberg	Randa Gravanti

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



Anniversaries
and Birthdays

Sermon Notes