

**The Worship of God  
December 1, 2013  
11:00 a.m.**

Reflection

*"In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious." Isaiah 11:10*

*"Beware of self-righteousness. The black devil of licentiousness destroys his hundreds, but the white devil of self-righteousness destroys his thousands."  
Charles Spurgeon*

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Held

Call to Worship Isaiah 12:1-4

Hymn of Praise, #187 *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Prayer of Adoration

Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**Advent means coming. We are preparing for the full coming of God's kingdom:**

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Song of Thanksgiving, #186 *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (Refrain Only) VENI EMMANUEL

Celebration of Community

Hymn of Preparation, #139 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* TRENTHAM

Offertory Anthem *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Miller

Scripture Luke 18:9-14

Sermon ***One Thanksgiving Prayer to Avoid*** Mr. Zack Keuthan

Hymn of Response, #63 *Our Great Savior* HYFRYDOL

Benediction

Postlude *Finale on Hyfrydol* Coleman

\* *Dismiss children kindergarten and younger following offertory.*

\*\* *If you would like prayer for any reason, there will be elders available to pray with you immediately following the service in the prayer room directly through the door in the front of the sanctuary behind the piano.*



Worship Care: First A.R.P. Church offers a staffed nursery for infants and toddlers, in addition to worship care programs for children ages 2 through kindergarten. Four year olds and kindergarten students are dismissed directly from the service. Worship care ministries are located on the 1st floor of the education building.

Mike and Barbie Harwell presented their son, Ezra James Harwell for baptism today at the 8:30 service.



**Announcements**

- **There will be a congregational meeting next Sunday, December 8th, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall** for the purpose of electing church officers and approving the 2014 ministry budget. See you there!
- **Bi-Annual Angel Breakfast—Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8:30am in the Fellowship Hall.** An exclusive event for 1-5 year olds and their families. Enjoy a hot breakfast, participate in Christmas activities and take home a keepsake ornament. The cost is \$6 per family at the door. Reservations are requested in order to plan a meal, rmaney@firstarpchurch.org or lfarrar@firstarpchurch.org
- **A Service of Lessons and Carols will be next Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6:00pm.** Celebrate the Advent by listening to the Christmas story and singing favorite carols. Leadership provided by the Cherub, Junior, Youth, and Adult Choirs.
- **Baby Shower for Courtney & Trey McKeown—NEXT SUNDAY, Dec. 8.** It's a drop-in shower from 1:00-3:00pm at the home of Betsy & Mark Forbes, 643 Archie Whitesides Rd. They are registered at Babies R Us, Target, and Walmart.
- **Costumes for our "Night in Bethlehem" characters and shop keepers will be available in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday morning, Dec. 8, before/after/between morning and evening services.** Mary Lou Pearson and Penny Wilson will be available to assist you.
- **Community Christmas Store Angel Tree**—Please select a donation angel in the amount of your choice from our Angel Tree - located in the elevator lobby of the Education Building. Return the angel and your monetary gift to Tammy Baker's office. If you are giving sports balls or diapers, place them under the tree. We are supporting 30 families and 103 children this year in our Dec. 19 store. Volunteers for the store are needed. Contact Vicki Marsh. Volunteers for the children's party are needed. Contact Rebecca Maney.
- **Youth to OCC Work Center—Dec. 4**—all youth 13+ years old, meet at the Youth Building at 4:15pm. Bring money for dinner. Will return around 9pm.
- **HS Progressive Christmas Party Dec. 6—(5-8pm)** Meet at the Barker's. Bring a \$5 white elephant gift. Pick up at the Long's.
- **MS Progressive Christmas Party—Dec. 7—(4:30-8:30pm)** Bring a \$5 white elephant gift. Drop off at the Youth Building. Pick up at Bess Elementary following Wyldlife.
- **It's that time of year again to volunteer in the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte.** We have a few spots available for Wednesday evening, Dec. 11. Those interested will pull out of the First A.R.P. parking lot at 5pm and return around 10pm. To reserve your spot, call Nancy Peeler in the church office. Contact Walt Windley with any questions.
- **Covenant Community Preschool invites all to attend the Children's Christmas Worship in the Sanctuary on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 9:30am.** The children will present original music composed by Mary McFarland and traditional Christmas Carols. Each class has learned a selection depicting a part of the manger scene. The pre-K class will play a familiar Carol on the melody bells and then urge you to "Hurry to the Stable!" in song. The activity of the shepherds will be presented by the threes class. Our twos will be angels! Directed by Mary McFarland.



**365 Read the Story Weekly Reading Plan**

- 12/1: *A Whisper in the Night* Judges 7:1-15
- 12/2: *Trumpets and Lamps* Judges 7:16-25
- 12/3: *Jephthah's Promise* Judges 11
- 12/4: *Say Shibboleth!* Judges 12
- 12/5: *A Special Baby* Judges 13
- 12/6: *A Wedding is Arranged* Judges 14:1-9
- 12/7: *Answer My Riddle* Judges 14:10-20

**Sunday, December 1**

- 8:00 a.m. Officers' Prayer Time with Pastor
- 8:30 a.m. Blended Worship—Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Choir
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship—Sanctuary

**Monday, December 2**

- 11:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Time—Prayer Room
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting—First floor lobby of Education Building

**Tuesday, December 3**

- 7:30pm Gaston Choral Ensemble Concert—Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 4**

- 3:15 p.m. Youth will host Bible Club at York Chester MS
- 4:15 p.m. Youth to OCC Work Center—meet at Youth Building
- 6:15 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for Lessons & Carols Service: Adult, Youth, Junior and Cherub Choirs
- 7:15 p.m. Combined Adult Choirs

**Thursday, December 5**

- 6:30 p.m. Panera Bread Group

**Friday, December 6**

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast—Mike Foster—Fellowship Hall
- 5:00 p.m. HS Progressive Christmas Party (5-8pm) Meet at the Barker's

**Saturday, December 7**

- 7:30 a.m. Pastor's Prayer Partners—Fellowship Hall
- 8:30 a.m. Angel Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Junior Choir Cookie Party—at the home of Heather Potter
- 4:30 p.m. MS Progressive Christmas Party (4:30-8:30pm) meet at Youth Bldg.
- 6:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
- 6:00 p.m. Young Adults Hangout—Location TBA
- 6:00 p.m. Elective Class Christmas Party—Fellowship Hall

**"A Night in Bethlehem"**

**A Hands-On Holy Land Experience for the Entire Family!**

**Wednesday, December 11—First A. R. P.**

*Families A-L from 5:30-6:30 p.m.*

*Families M-Z from 6:30-7:30 p.m.*

- Record your Family Name on our Bethlehem Census!
- Dress up in Bethlehem Costumes for a Family Photo!
- Sample some authentic marketplace food!
- Take home a lasting reminder of Christ's birth! A small nativity scene! Visit our six Bethlehem shops; meet shepherds and tax collectors before you visit our outdoor live nativity scene!



**Please Pre-Register! Invite your Family and Friends!**

Registration forms will be available on our church web site and in weekly church bulletins .

