

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Away in a Manger”

*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.*

*POSTLUDE “Rondeau” (Henry Purcell)
Rick Robertson, piano

*Please stand if you are able

We welcome our guest musicians, from First Baptist Church on the Square, Libby (cello) and Milly (harp) Criswell. Libby is a music performance major at Samford University and Milly is a junior at LaGrange High School. Their parents are Anthony and Rebecca Criswell. Anthony is the Music Minister at FBC on the Square.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Natalie Bishop
Harriet Flick
Espe Gallinger
Stephanie Grantham
Bud Hall
Terry Logar
Vickie Lonidier
Rae Loyd
Lilly Young

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: Annie Pauley

Elders on Duty: Jim Allen Bradfield, Roxann Quintana

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Happy Birthday this week to: (11/29) Sandra Hendricks; (12/3) Laura Lamb; (12/4) Beth Burgess; (12/5) Mollie Callaway, Keaton Moat

The Worship Committee sent out a survey last week to help determine our plans for the Christmas Eve service this year. Please respond so that we can plan accordingly.

LOYD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PROGRAM TEAM:

Reverend Dave Omerod, Interim Pastor
Adrienne Hardie, Church Secretary
Shelley Skinner, Financial Secretary
Mike Pauley, Youth Director
Marty Davis, Music Director
Jo Loyd, Organist
Rick Robertson, Pianist
Koren Stapp, Nursery Coordinator
Pam Darden, God’s Promised Land Coordinator
Amy Crites, Children’s Choir Director
Meagan Ferrell, Nursery Worker

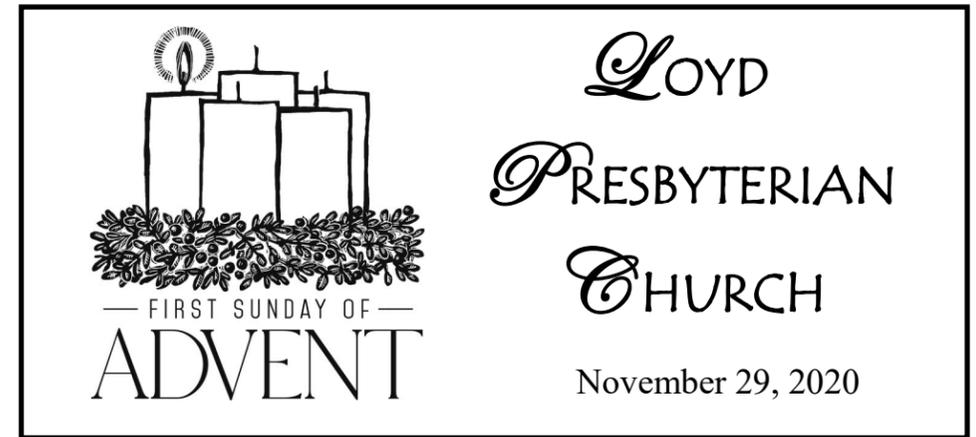
LOYD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
A Partner in Education with Long Cane Elementary School

WIFI password: buddyloyd

*If you are interested in church membership,
or have a question about the life and ministry of this congregation,
please speak with one of our elders.*



CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE “Silent Night” (Gruber; arr. Barnwell)
Milly Criswell, harp

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: HOPE

Mark, Jolene and Chase Davis

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Leader: Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations.

People: God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.

*PERSONAL AND PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (IN UNISON)

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Praise God, the source of all things!

*APOSTLE'S CREED (IN UNISON)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“The First Noel with Canon in D” (traditional/Pachelbel; arr. Criswell)
Milly Criswell, harp
Libby Criswell, cello

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40: 3-5

A voice cries out, “Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it. The Lord himself has promised this.”

THE SERMON

Rev. Dave Omerod

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Ding, Dong, Merrily on High” (traditional; arr. Ijames)
Libby Criswell, cello

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

**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.**

*HYMN

“Prepare the Way”

*Prepare the way, O Zion,
Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
Foretold in sacred story.*

**Refrain:
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.**