

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City (PCUSA)

14391 Minnieville Road Woodbridge, VA 22193

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<https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>



Conversations with the *Angels*

A SERIES OF SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT

3rd Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023
10:00 AM

The Reverend Adam C. Bowling - Pastor
Adam.Bowling@fupcdc.org
828.448.8914

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

BELLS

The three tolls call us to worship and symbolize our belief in the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In quiet reverence, we prepare for worship.

GATHERING SONG

He Who Is Mighty Rebecca Elliott, Kate DeGraide (CCLI #7031870)
FUPCDC Praise Team

WELCOME

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS NOTES

+ CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Luke 1:46-55)*

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

from generation to generation God gives mercy.

+ OPENING CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

(The third pink candle is lit.)

The McDaniel Family

PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope.

Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Rejoice in God always, rejoice. For God has created you with the capacity for joy. Trust in God's good will for all of creation and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love. Go forth in hope, peace, and joy.

SUNG RESPONSE *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn (Verse 1)*

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**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.**

**Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.**

Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even in the midst of great joy and celebration, we know that our lives don't always reflect God's intentions. Our hearts long for God, and we know we fall short of God's glory. So, let us now confess to God the ways we have individually and collectively fallen short, by praying together. . .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)*

Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about the things that don't go right. Your word says, "Pray without ceasing." But we go for days without even thinking about You. Your word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve blessings. Your word says "Hold fast to what is good," while we hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting. Hear us as we continue to confess in the silence of our hearts. . .

(A Time of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)*

The prophets of old have declared, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robes of righteousness."

Friends, hearing this good news, know that we are forgiven and be at peace.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child

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Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing:

"Glory, glory, glory!"

Let the heavens ring.

+ PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

(Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.)

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming.
Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38 NRSV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Joy has Dawned
Chancel Choir & FUPCDC Praise Team

Larson

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 22:1-7 NRSV

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its

fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

6 And he said to me, 'These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.'

7 'See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.'

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

DIALOGUE SERMON Conversations with the Angels: Praises Called For

Pastor: Rev. Adam C. Bowling
Angel: Martin Andrews

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

If you would like to speak with someone about becoming a Christian, about church membership, or about a special prayer need, please speak with Pastor Adam or someone at the Welcome Table right outside the sanctuary. For those worshipping online, please email Pastor Adam at adam.bowling@fupcdc.org. Know that ALL are welcome in this place!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ **HYMN OF RESPONSE** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

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ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

Elder: Debbie Cornelius (Class of 2024) - Ordained & Installed

Deacon: Donna Seckar (Class of 2026 - 1st term) - Installed

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS

Book of Order, W-4.4003

Regarding Personal Faith

(1) Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **“I DO.”**

(2) Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you? **“I DO.”**

Regarding Doctrine:

(3) Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **“I DO AND I WILL.”**

(4) Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **“I WILL.”**

Regarding Government:

(5) Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit? **“I WILL.”**

Regarding Discipline:

(6) Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **“I WILL.”**

(7) Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **“I DO.”**

Regarding the Duties of the Office:

(8) Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **“I WILL.”**

(9) **(for elders)** Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **“I WILL.”**

(9) **(for deacons)** Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **“I WILL.”**

Questions to the Congregation:

Book of Order, W-4.4004

(1) Do we, the members of the church, accept these individuals as elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? If so, please say **“WE DO.”**

(2) Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? If so, please say “WE DO.”

PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND LAYING ON OF HANDS

STATEMENT OF INSTALLATION

CHARGE

SERVICE OF GIVING

Music at the Offering

What Child Is This
FUPCDC Praise Team

Arr. Sovereign Grace Ministries

+ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,

And we give with joy.

Joy for all you have given us;

Joy because of your sacred promises.

Receive these generous offerings,

And use them to spread your joy in our world.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

+ **SENDING SONG**

Go Tell It On the Mountain
FUPCDC Praise Team

Arr. Rachel Bradley

+ **OUR VISION**

Here at First United Presbyterian we are

Welcoming All, Growing Together, Serving with Joy!

+ **RECOGNITION AND BENEDICTION**

✠ For Franklin and Grace Agyekum as they move back to Ghana

+ **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Adam C. Bowling

+ **BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *What Child Is This (Verse 3)*

FUPCDC Praise Team

Arr. Sovereign Grace Ministries

+ **POSTLUDE**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Dr. Nadia Carmichael, Pianist

Arr. Mark Hayes

+ *Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Worship Notes

- * **WELCOME!** Whether you are new in the area, a resident of the community, or visiting, we are delighted you joined us in worship. Please come to the Welcome Table at the rear of the sanctuary after the service to fill out an info card and to receive a special gift. To find out more about this church, please call the Church Office at 703-670-7834 or speak with Pastor Adam, adam.bowling@fupcdc.org.
- * **WORSHIP ASSISTANT:** Douglas Randles

Connect with Us

- * **WE ARE ON FACEBOOK:** If you use Facebook, become a Facebook friend, and become a fan of First United Presbyterian. Make friends with others from the church.
- * **WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM:** Find us on Instagram @fupcdc.
- * **FUPCDC WEBSITE:** For detailed news and information, visit the church website at <https://fupcdc.org>.
- * **FUPCDC YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** To view worship services and videos, visit the FUPCDC Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>. You can also find our channel by searching for "FUPCDC Video".
- * **TEXT ALERTS:** Remind is a free text messaging service that will help our church communicate quickly and efficiently. On your cell phone, start a new message to **81010**. In the message, type @fupcdc and send. You can unsubscribe at any time.
- * **THURSDAY NEWS FROM FIRST UNITED:** To read about all the great things that are happening at FUPCDC, you can receive a weekly email. To sign up for the Thursday News, go to <https://fupcdc.org> and click on the church email signups button or email the church office at office@fupcdc.org.
- * **CONNECT CARD/PRAYER CARD:** If you are new to FUPCDC or you need to update your information, please fill out a Connect Card. On the back side is the Prayer Card. It would be our honor to pray for your joys and concerns. Please drop the card in the Prayer Request box in the Welcome Center.

Ministry in Action

- * **NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY AND WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL:** There will be no Pastor's Bible study and no Wednesday Night meal on December 20th, 27th, and January 3rd.
- * **FLOWER SIGN UP:** New dates have been added to the Flower Sign Up Genius for 2024. To sign up, you may click on the link on the FUPCDC Thursday News or if you have signed up in the past, an email may be sent to you. When signing up, please indicate who the flowers are in honor or memory of in the comment section. In addition, after the service the flowers are used by the deacons for the Flower Ministry and are given to a congregational member who is in need of feeling some love from the congregation. If you wish to keep the flowers instead, just indicate this in the comment section or email me. The cost for purchasing flowers continues to be \$40.00. You may pay for them by sending a check into the office made out to FUPCDC. Please write flowers and the Sunday you signed up for in the memo section. You may also pay online on the church website. Email Gail Cobb at gailzcobb@gmail.com for help.
- * **SUNDAY ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:** Join us during the Sunday School Hour at **9:00 AM** for a Bible study by Max Lucado entitled Because of Bethlehem. In this study, we will explore and rekindle our connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers lasting hope. It is suggested that each student purchase their own study guide that allows for notes on the video segments, directions for discussion questions, and activities, as well as practices to deepen learning between sessions. You may also purchase the actual book which has many additional insights that are not in the study guide. We hope to see you there!
- * **252 KIDS CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** We will meet today at **9:00 AM**. The 252 Kids Club will meet at **10:15 AM**. Contact Kim Brown at kim.brown@fupcdc.org for more information.
- * **CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING:** These gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color and assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. You can donate to the Christmas Joy offering in two ways: (1) You can mail a check to the church with "Christmas Joy" or "Joy Offering" on the memo line. (2) You can go to our website, www.fupcdc.org, and click "online collection plate" and use the "designated giving" to give - putting "Christmas Joy" or "Joy Offering" in the note field. If you would like to know even more about this special offering, check out this website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>. Thank you for your continued support of this important cause!
- * **BLANKET/SLEEPING BAG/TENT DRIVE:** The Mission team is collecting blankets, sleeping bags, and tents for the homeless. We are asking for heavy duty blankets suitable for the outdoors, adult cold weather sleeping bags (20 degrees and below) and tents. To participate in this drive, simply put new or gently used and clean items in the decorated collection box in the Welcome center on Christmas Eve. These items will be distributed to the local unhoused community who we serve each Sunday through our Spread the Bread ministry. If you have any questions or would like to drop off donations prior to Christmas Eve, please contact Pam Cox at 703-888-6610. Thank you so much for generously supporting this local ministry!

- * **PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG:** Are you looking for unique/nontraditional gifts for those special people in your life? The Mission team suggests you consider thumbing through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and make a gift in someone's honor. Your gifts are signs of gratitude: feeding the hungry, comforting the brokenhearted and sharing our faith with young and old. Copies of the Giving Catalog are in the Welcome Center or shop online. See link in the Thursday News.

Student Ministry News

- ✚ **YOUTH PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY:** Join us TODAY at 5 PM. Contact Briana Stewart at (540) 967-7347 or briana.stewart@fupcdc.org with any questions.
- * **YOUTH CALENDARS:** Youth calendars are now available online and in the Welcome Center.
- * **STUDENT MINISTRY EMAILS:** Sign up to receive Student Ministry emails. Ask Briana Stewart how to do this, or go to the FUPCDC website.
- * **TEXT MESSAGES:** Sign up for Text Messages: Text @youthfupc to 81010.

Joys and Concerns

All those who are ill or facing difficulties, including:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| * Sarpong Amakao | * Debbie Niederriter | * Karen Gundel | * Linda Ford |
| * Mike Moore | * Baby Raphael | * Jeannine Menzie | * Leigh Anderson |
| * Judy Stewart | * Tanya | * Doug Godfrey | * Nate Johnson |
| * Baby Louisa Wolstenholme | * Amanda | * Yolanda Magpayo | * Sue Johnson |
| * Bill and Laura Parris | * Nathan Johnson, III | * Mikon Jones | * Marti Hall |
| * Jason, Arina, Mikail Corbin | * Steve Glycer | * Mike Gundel | * Dave Stokes |
| | * Pat Greenhalgh | * Lee Watenpaugh | * Shirley |

✚ Thank you to all who sent thoughts, prayers, and cards, and called expressing sympathy at the loss of my brother. Also, many thanks to all who called, sent cards and get well wishes and prayers since my recent neck surgery. Both healings will take time, but with God's help and your support, my family and I will get through this all. - Dave Stokes

All those serving in our military who are stationed away from home, including from our church:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✚ Kelsey Gibson (Affiliate Member of FUPCDC) | ✚ Zach Lauster (Aaron Lauster's son) |
| ✚ Elizabeth Batista (Ana Batista Caporaletti's daughter) | ✚ Ryan Bruner (Carol and Ross Schwalm's son-in-law) |
| ✚ David Cornelius, Jr. (Debbie Cornelius' son) | |

The churches of National Capital Presbytery, especially:

- ✚ Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church - Gaithersburg, MD
- ✚ Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church - Washington, DC

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

Please join us as we celebrate Christmas.

- **December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent - 10 AM one service**
- **December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve**
 - 9:00 AM Christian Education Hour
 - 10:00 AM Worship Service - Lessons and Carols
 - 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (Candlelight & Communion)
 - 7:30 PM Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
- **December 31: Epiphany Sunday, 10 AM one service - Star Words**

Calendar

December 17 -24, 2023

SUNDAY, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:00 AM 252 Kids Club
- 10:00 AM Worship - one service
- 10:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 11:15 AM Spread the Bread
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 3:30 PM New Dominion Choraliars Concert
- 5:00 PM Youth - Progressive Christmas Dinner

MONDAY, December 18

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 6:30 PM Cub Scout Pack 289
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 18083
- 7:00 PM Bible Buddies

TUESDAY, December 19

- 8:30 AM TOPS
- 6:30 PM Girl Scout Troop 226
- 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 964
- 7:00 PM Session Meeting
- 7:00 PM Bull Run Troubadours

WEDNESDAY, December 20

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, December 21

Church Office Closed

- 3:00 PM Prayer and Praise Small Group
- 7:00 PM Earth Care Committee
- 7:00 PM FUPCDC Praise Team
- 7:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 8:00 PM AA for Beginners

FRIDAY, December 22

Church Office Closed

- 10:30 AM Holy Fitness
- 8:00 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion

SATURDAY, December 23

SUNDAY, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

- 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class
- 9:00 AM 252 Kids Club
- 10:00 AM Worship - one service
- 10:15 AM 252 Kids Children's Ministry
- 11:15 AM Spread the Bread
- 1:30 PM Iglesia Pentecostal De Restauracion
- 2:30 PM Bereaved Parents of USA
- 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (Candlelight & Communion)
- 7:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Poinsettias were given to the Glory of God by . . .

*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in memory of our parents,
Joe and Ruth Chamberlin and Ed and Georgie Stratton*

*Bob and Sandy Chamberlin, in honor of
our daughters, Jill, Courtney, Katie, and Becky*

Gail Cobb, in memory of Norman Cobb

Pam Cox, in loving memory of Lisa Chrzan

The Elliott Family, in memory of Tom Elliott Sr. and Mark Elliott

Pamela Emert, in memory of Craig Emert

Bruce and Betsy Gilbert, in memory of our parents

Peter and Elizabeth Glycer, in memory of Mike Glose

*Curt and Claire Hoagland, in memory of
Nancy Hoagland, Donna Davis, and Trevor Hipkin*

Curt and Claire Hoagland, in honor of Adam and Erin Bowling

*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in memory of
Josephine and Robert Bradshaw*

*Joanne and Rodney Willis, in honor of
Audrey Willis and John Scott*



Your poinsettias may be picked up after the 7:30 PM worship service on December 24th. Thank you!

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City, Woodbridge, VA

Ministers.....	People of the Church
Pastor.....	Rev. Adam C. Bowling
Parish Assistant.....	Pastor Michael Slayter
Nursery Supervisor.....	Taylor Woods
Children's Ministry Director	Kim Brown
Youth Director.....	Briana Stewart
Chancel Choir Director.....	Dana Van Slyke
Contemporary Worship Leader.....	Rachel Bradley
Pianist/Organist.....	Dr. Nadia Carmichael
Sexton.....	Homer Detrich
Office Manager.....	Kim Parker



SCAN TO GIVE

Church Office Hours: 10AM -2:30PM, weekdays, 703-670-7834
