



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH EAST

January 3, 2021
Second Sunday of Christmas

Gregg D. Townsend, Pastor
Pastor Gregg: (814) 460-3123
Email: pastortownsend@yahoo.com

Jane Livingston, Music Director
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PREPARING FOR COMMUNION: *Prior to the service, please gather bread and juice/wine (or any commonly used food or drink) to use for communion.*

GATHERING MUSIC: “Jesus Is All”

Arr. Travis Cottrell

GREETING: Pastor Gregg Townsend

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Long ago, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;

Together: now God has spoken to us by a Son.

God made the world through the Son, who has been appointed heir of all things and the perfect reflection of God’s glory.

The Son is the exact representation of God’s being, sustaining all things by his powerful Word.

Praise God for the gift of the Son.

We welcome the light of the world!

—based on Hebrews 1:1-3

Almighty Lord God, you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world:

We praise and magnify your holy name that in him you have revealed the wonder of your saving love to all people.

With those of old who brought their tribute to his feet, confessing him as King of heaven and earth, **we now present the worship of our grateful hearts, asking you to give us grace to give ourselves to you, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

OPENING PRAISE: “We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.

Field and fountain moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.

Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain. Gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever ceasing never, over us all to reign. **(Chorus)**

Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshipping God Most high. **(Chorus)**

Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume. Breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. **(Chorus)**

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies. **(Chorus)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ, we confess our poor sense of direction. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. We fail to follow the signs you provide.

Forgive our waywardness, O God. Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. Amen.

LAMENT: "Give Me Jesus"

In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise give me Jesus...
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world... just give me Jesus.

When I am alone, when I am alone, oh when I am alone give me Jesus...
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world... just give me Jesus.

When I come to die, when I come to die, oh when I come to die give me Jesus...
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world... just give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world... just give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You can have all this world. You can have all this world.
You can have all this world... just give me Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who did receive him,
to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
Amen!

—John 1:9, 12, NIV

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 11:29-36

MESSAGE

RESPONDING IN SONG: "Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for You.

Jesus, the name above ev'ry other name. Jesus, the only one who could ever save.
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe. We live for You. We live for You.

**Holy, there is no one like You. There is none beside You. Open up my eyes in wonder.
And show me who You are and fill me with Your heart.
And lead me in Your love to those around me. (REPEAT)**

I will build my life upon Your love; it is a firm foundation.
I will put my trust in You alone and I will not be shaken. **(CHORUS)**

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

“I Celebrate the Day”

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup (Please eat the bread and then drink the cup.)

Prayer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the 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 the 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 men, 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped 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.

CLOSING SONG: “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

**This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long.**

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending, bring from above, echoes of mercy whispers of love. **(Chorus)**

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest.
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness lost in His love. **(Chorus)**

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

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CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY IS FPCNE’S MONTH TO WORK AT THE NORTH EAST FOOD PANTRY. During the month of February, we need a couple of volunteers that can help pack food on Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 AM. We also need a few others to help with distribution on Saturdays from 9:00 AM to noon. Please email Steve Seymour at smsinne@hotmail.com if you can help.

HAVE YOU EVER READ THROUGH THE BIBLE? 2021 IS YOUR YEAR TO DO IT! Contact Pastor Gregg directly and he will fill you in. There’s still time to join in the fun!

BECOME A MEMBER OF FPCNE! Do you consider FPCNE your church home? Is FPCNE where you receive pastoral care? Is FPCNE where you are fed on God’s Word? Then you should speak with Pastor Gregg about becoming a member. It doesn’t matter where you live. The church is not a building... the church is the people.

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER & DEVOTION is held on Facebook LIVE each week at 7:00 PM (EST).

JOIN PASTOR GREGG ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 7:30 PM (EST) VIA ZOOM FOR AN ONLINE BOOK DISCUSSION, “SIMPLIFY YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.” If your Bible study seems tedious and your prayer life wearisome, stop and rediscover how rewarding the simple Christian life can be. Check the church Facebook page for a Zoom link or contact Pastor Gregg.

PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY WILL RESUME ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 7:30 PM (EST) VIA ZOOM. Check the church Facebook page for a Zoom link or contact Pastor Gregg.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST, JOY OR CONCERN TO SHARE, please speak with Pastor Gregg or call or text his cell phone at (814) 460-3123. You can also email our prayer chain at jlivingston@neo.rr.com.

THE SESSION IS WORKING TO CLEAN OUT VARIOUS ROOMS AND HAVE A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT SOMEONE MAY FIND USEFUL. Please contact Steve Seymour or Cindy Lilly if you have interested. Please note that you must arrange to pick up and haul from the church. Here are the items that are free to a good home:

- Stand-alone foosball table
- Air hockey/pool/foosball 3-in-1 mini table
- Guitar Hero for Sony Playstation (not sure if it works)
- Sony boombox with CD/cassette/radio
- VHS/DVD player
- Tan 6-piece sectional couch

CHURCH CALENDAR

DATE	TIMES (EST)	EVENT
<p>The church office is closed to the public due to the pandemic, except by appointment. Please contact Pastor Gregg if you need assistance.</p>		
Monday, January 4	7:00 PM	- Session Meeting (via Teleconference)
Tuesday, January 5	7:30 PM	- "Simplify Your Spiritual Life" Book Group (via Zoom)
Wednesday, January 6	7:00 PM 7:30 PM	- Evening Prayer & Devotional (via FB LIVE) - Pastor's Bible Study (via Zoom)
Sunday, January 10	10:30 AM	- Sunday Online Worship Service (via FB LIVE)

CONTACT INFO YOU MIGHT NEED

- Contact Pastor Gregg anytime at (814) 460-3123 (call or text) and pastortownsend@yahoo.com.
- Contact music director Jane Livingston at (814) 504-1135 (call or text) and jlivingston@neo.rr.com.
- Please send announcements or calendar events to Jane.