

**Charge and Benediction*

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

**Congregational Benediction*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo**

Postlude

Greeters ***Carl Snow, Cindy Snow***
Ushers ***Denna Grogan, Don Grogan, Dana Lamb, Mike Lamb***
Liturgist ***Carolyn Gahan, Bell Family***
Music ***Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill, FCPC Choral Ensemble***
Interim Pastor ***Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse***

Announcements

Christmas Eve at FCPC will consist of three services. We will have our regular Sunday morning service at **10:30am** and then two evening services. At **5:30pm** we will have a service that is more family oriented with a Candlelight and Communion Service to follow at **7:00pm**.

Don't forget to turn in your pledge! Please turn your pledges in to the offering plate or scan this QR Code to submit it electronically! We have received 49 pledges of our 155 family units for a total of \$337,080. We need everyone's participation in order to reach our asking budget of approximately \$500,000. Big or small, when we come together we can achieve our goal. Thank you for your faithful support of Fountain City Presbyterian Church, here's to the next 100 years!

The Church Office will be CLOSED December 25th through January 1st, opening back up on Tuesday, January 2nd.



***Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023***

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Bell Family

Leader: Hear the word of the LORD: I will make Peace your governor, and Righteousness your supervisor.
All: You will call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.
Leader: The sun will no longer be your light by day, nor will you need the moon to light your way by night.
All: The LORD will be your everlasting light, your God will be your glory!
Leader: The LORD will be an everlasting light for you, and your days of mourning will be ended
All: God says, "I am the LORD, at the right time I will make all this happen!"

Congregation

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

Call to Worship

Carolyn Gahan

Leader: I surely rejoice in the LORD, my heart is joyful because of my God
All: God has clothed me in the wardrobe of victory, and wrapped me in a robe of righteousness!
Leader: Nations will see your righteousness, all kings will behold your glory
All: You will be called by a new name, which the LORD's own mouth will determine
Leader: You will no longer be called Abandoned, and your land will no longer be called Deserted
All: Instead, you will be called My Delight Is In Her

****Hymn O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (Glory to God Hymnal, see insert)***

O Lord, how shall I meet You, how welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, my hope, my heart's delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation, love brought You down to me,
Your thirst for our salvation procured our liberty.

O Love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race!

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
To bring and end to sadness and bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation we live for that great day
When Your renewed creation Your glory shall display.

Ritual of Friendship

*Members and Guests – Please sign and pass the friendship register
located on the center aisle under the pew in front.*

Carolyn Gahan

Call to Confession

Leader: The LORD does not lack the power to save, nor are God’s ears too deaf to hear, but our misdeeds have separated us from our God, our sins have hidden the LORD’s face from us. Let’s seek God’s mercy and confess our sin.

Carolyn Gahan

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, how many prayers have You listened to that came to nothing? How often do You hear promises of change if only You do this or that, and the change never happens? Yet here we are again, and somehow You are too. Not even our pets would put up with us if we treated them like we treat You...maybe that’s one way Your grace is beyond amazing. It’s on us to stop playing this game with You, and yet we can’t unless You help. And You have, even giving Your Only Son to atone for our sins. What more do we need? Forgive us, and maybe this time we’ll mean it, for we ask in Jesus’ Name, AMEN.

Carolyn Gahan

(Time for Silent Confession)

Assurance of Forgiveness and Peace (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Leader: In other words, God was reconciling the world to Himself through Christ, by not holding people’s sins against them. Even more, He has now trusted us with the mission of extending this reconciliation to others.

Carolyn Gahan

****Gloria Patri***

**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.**

****Passing the Peace***

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
All: And also with you

Carolyn Gahan

Anthem Gentle Carols Of Bethlehem – Tunes: “Afton”, “St. Louis”, “Cradle Song”, “Christmas Song” and “Mueller”

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the night sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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 hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes; But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky! There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry;
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!
Oh, Bethlehem cradles a King!

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children In Your tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with You there.
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Scripture Reading Luke 1:67-80

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

Prayer of Illumination

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

Sermon A Classic

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

****Hymn #282 O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful***

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful grace revealing Christmastide!
Jesus came to win us from all sin within us
Glorify the Holy Child!

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful love revealing Christmastide!
Loud hosannas singing, and all praises bringing
May Thy love with us abide!

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful peace revealing Christmastide!
Darkness disappearing, God’s own Light is nearing
Peace and joy to all betide!

Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

All: 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

Call for Offering

Leader: Let’s give our tithes and offerings to further the Kingdom of God.

Carolyn Gahan

Offertory

****Doxology***

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost**

****Prayer of Dedication***

Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse

****Hymn #240 Of The Father’s Love Begotten***

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven adore Him, angel hosts His praises sing!
Powers, dominions bow before Him, and extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.