

December 3, 2017

First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent



Following Jesus, Transforming Life

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington is transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor.

Ask an usher for a large print bulletin, Bible, or hearing enhancement device.

Prayer cards, visitor information cards, and offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate.

Preaching: Rev. Rich McDermott

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Campbell

8:30 Lay Leader: Kathi Dailey

11:00 Lay Leader: Coleman Sanger

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God
by Dave and Sandra Boice in memory of departed family.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Isaiah 9:2

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them a light has shined.”*

Prelude

Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme

Johann Sebastian Bach

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Ankele Family, The Gottmann Family

Introit (8:30)

Were You There on That Christmas Night

Natalie Sleeth

Sarah Teel, Edrea Akoso, and Elena Regalado

Voluntary (11:00)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Russell Farnell

Children’s Music Ministries Cassasndra Kirby, director

§ Hymn 105

People Look East

BESANÇON

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**Lord God, our lives are filled with sin. We forget our neighbor’s needs and do not love you
above all else. We need a Savior. Help us to be ready for the Christ Child in our own hearts.
O come, O come, Savior of the world. Amen.**

§ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

§ The Gloria Patri

GREATOREX

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.

§ Passing the Peace

Greet those around you with, **“The peace of Christ be with you.”**

§ Hymn 95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2–7

Old Testament page 636

Anthem (11:00)

Arise, Shine

Robert Lau

Laura Farnell, director Cheryl Harris, piano Dolly Hall, clarinet

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

*Darkness will cover the earth, and darkness will cover the people,
but the Lord will arise upon you, and God’s glory will be seen by all.*

Holy, holy, holy is the name of the Lord. Holy, holy, sing God’s praise forever more.

Sing praise to the Lord.

Children's Time

Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 216.

Scripture Reading

John 14:15-17, 25-27

New Testament page 109

The Sermon

Wonderful Counselor

Rev. McDermott

The Table

Offertory (8:30)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

(11:00)

O Come, Emmanuel

Alice Parker

*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.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Consecration and the Lord's Prayer sung (see page 4)

Words of Institution

The Bread and Cup

8:30 – *Come forward to partake.*

11:00 – *Eat the bread as it is served. Hold the cup to drink together. While passing the elements, you may say, "the body of Christ, broken for you," and, "the blood of Christ, shed for you."*

Prayer after Communion

Sending

§ Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands

§ Postlude

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Craig Phillips



The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be thy name; _____

Thy king - dom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heav - en.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread; for - give us our debts as we for - give our debt - ors;

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil:

For Thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

First Presbyterian Church Music Ministry presents

an Advent Festival Service

featuring the Christmas portion of G. F. Handel's

Messiah
an Oratorio

December 10 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

1200 S Collins Arlington TX 76010

www.firstprestexas.org

Comments for Contemplation

Wonderful Counselor Isaiah 7:14, 9:2-7; John 14:15-17, 25-27

1. The good news is that we can have an amazing Advocate and a wonderful Counselor, forever, just for the asking.... This Advocate is given to us pro-bono by God the Father, in the name of God the Son, and arrives for us as God the Holy Spirit. As we will learn today, the Holy Spirit is the _____ or the Advocate who will teach us all things, and bring to our remembrance all that Jesus has said to us. And that is the kind of advocate we all need!
2. Some of you here this morning may have doubts that you have ever had that kind of relationship with the Lord. If God may have seemed kind of distant and uncaring to you and the whole religion thing has seemed kind of strange and unreal, then Advent can be a time to discover a true friend that you didn't know has been _____, all the time.
3. Jesus will not be coming incognito this time around, arriving as a humble babe and looking like any other child in the neighborhood. No, when Jesus arrives for his return, there will be no mistaking who he is. The Bible says that he will come with great power and glory, and the Nicene Creed declares that "he will come again with glory to _____ both the living and the dead."
4. But Isaiah's vision goes well beyond the historical child who becomes king. In an amazing passage, he says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Ancient Judaism was very careful to not deify human rulers, so this is a very remarkable prophecy, whose meaning was _____ in the eighth century, B.C.
5. That is the Advocate, the Holy Spirit at work, bringing to mind what Jesus has taught us. But we have to open our hearts and we have to pray and ask that the Holy Spirit will fill us because we have this treasure in earthen vessels, clay jars that are _____ and need to be filled, and filled and filled again.

Gifts of Hope are back!

Buy your Gifts of Hope today! Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift market that offers a creative and caring way to honor anyone on your shopping list. Choose an organization on the list and donate the amount specified. In return you receive a card to give as a gift to friends or family. For example, the inside of one card might read, "In the spirit of Christian love the value of one chicken has been given in your honor to World Vision". This program not only supports outreach organizations, but also seeks to offer a less materialistic option for gift giving. Gifts of Hope will be available for sale after both worship services and after Sunday School through Sunday, December 17th. You can also stop by the church office during the week. To help or for more information, contact Laura Farnell at Laura.Farnell@gmail.com or call or text (682) 478-5676.

Preschool Christmas Program and Santa Pictures & Cookies

The Preschool will be having the Christmas Program on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Following the program will be photos and cookies with Santa in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you all will join us!

Stewardship of Time, Treasure, Talent, and Trust 2018

Have we received your pledge card?

We hope you have received a letter from Pastors Rich McDermott and Chris Campbell containing a Stewardship letter, pledge card and return envelope. There are yellow pledge cards in the pews. We ask you to prayerfully consider what you can give to the Lord and his kingdom work through First Presbyterian Church of Arlington in 2018. Please return the two smaller parts of the pledge card, either in worship, or by mail, so we may know that you are committing yourself anew to the Lord's ministry at FPCA. Thank you so very much for your faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his Church!

This Changed Everything

500 Years of the Reformation - Film Series

What: A 6-week documentary film class

When: 9:45 a.m. on January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11

Where: Fellowship Hall

Each Week: 30 minutes of film, 30 minutes of questions and discussion.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting is today at 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have the election of new Deacons and Elders, the CNT and Trustee. Please plan to attend!



Festival of Tables

Don't Forget!

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Each hostess will set a unique table and serve her special dessert. The Young Jr. High choir will entertain.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S ONLINE PRESENCE

MAKE SURE TO LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

GO TO

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRETEXAS



Christmas Poinsettias!

Please help us prepare our Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior by ordering a poinsettia.

Order forms are in the Narthex, Chapel hall and church office.

Please complete the form and place it in the offering plate, the baskets in the Chapel hall and Narthex, or mail/bring them to the church office.

The cost is \$9.00 each and the deadline to order is Sunday, December 17.

Christmas Eve Services

The Christmas Eve morning services, Sunday, December 24, will be at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Christmas Eve night service will be in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or 31 but a time of refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show

Please join us on Sunday, December 17 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to support our youth as they present to you "FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show."

This will be a talent show where our youth will showcase their biblical knowledge and talents. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

Financial Peace University

What if you knew where all of your money was going each month? What if you had no house payment? What if your kid(s) college(s) were paid for? What if you could retire with peace? What if you could GIVE more than you've ever been able to give? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future, regardless of where you are in life. If you're interested in learning more about the class, contact Katina or James Gifford: 817-565-3835 or katinap84@aol.com. FPCA is offering it on Saturdays from 10-11:30 am, January 13 to March 10, 2018. If you would like to go ahead and sign up, go to the following link or ask us to help you! Link: <https://fpu.com/1051680>

**Childcare will be available upon request. Classes will be held in the Parlor at FPCA.

The Mitten Tree

During this season of Advent, you can help your church, plus you can show your Christian love, when you bring nice WARM mittens and hat's and gloves to hang on the mitten tree! The Mitten Tree will stand near the choir room. Your church will give the nice WARM mittens and hat's and gloves to children and grown-ups who need them this winter! You can find a 'thank you note' for this gift of your love in your Bible in Matthew 25:34-40! Merry Christmas!

The Dove Tree

The Dove Tree will be up December 2 in the Westminster Hall (outside the choir room). Each dove will have a name and address of one of our home bound members. Advent is a great time for us to spread love to those who cannot get out easily. Please take a dove from the tree and visit one of our home bound. A small gift, a card, a poinsettia, etc. will brighten their holiday season and you will be blessed in return.

Two December Special Offerings

Our church supports two special offerings during the month of December. One is to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). The other is Christmas Joy Offering which goes directly to Presbytery. Offering envelopes can be found outside the sanctuary or chapel or designate on your check which offering you are supporting.

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings supported by our church. Three of these are designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Joy Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to the National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. To view a brief video about the Christmas Joy Offering, visit www.pcusa.org/cjoffering.

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During the evening Christmas Eve services at our church, the offering will benefit the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). To find out more about PCHAS, visit www.pchas.org. You could also speak to Marge and Bob Dawson, our PCHAS ambassadors, about this very worthy organization which supports many children and families in a variety of ways in the state of Texas.

The News – In 2018, you will have choices!

Starting in January 2018, you will have choices on how The NEWS is delivered to you.

*It will continue to be in our church-wide emails with a link to The NEWS.

*You can Opt-In to have the FPCA NEWS mailed to you if you prefer a paper copy. Just call the office to let them know.

*Or you can always go to our website at firstprestexas.org and find the Newsletter under the Media tab.

The bottom line is, we will be relying more on digital ways to get you the newsletter, and we will be saving money on printing costs and paper. But remember, you can always call the church office and let them know if you prefer a paper copy of The NEWS mailed to you.

Also, if you are not receiving our weekly FPCA E-News church-wide emails and you would like to receive them, please call the church office at 817-274-8286.

Text Giving

FPCA's Text Giving number is: 817-318-7013 Visit us at www.FirstPresTexas.org.

