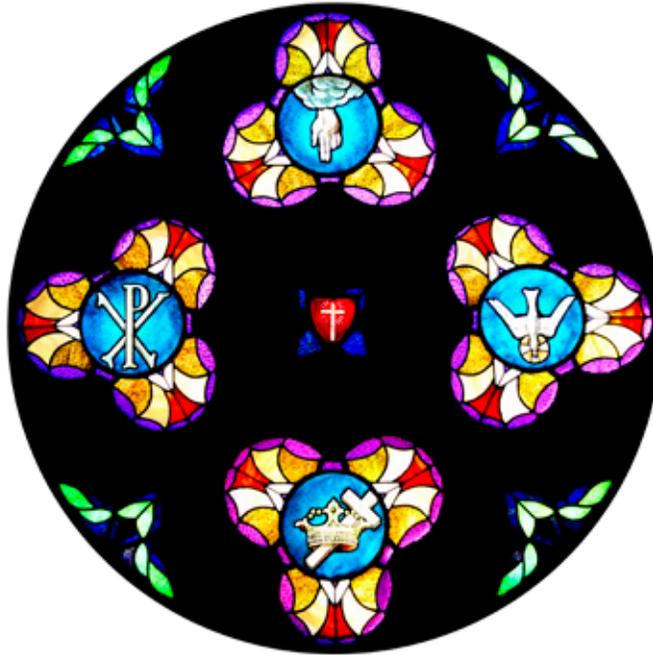


December 31, 2017

# First Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday after Christmas



## 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: Diane Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Katina Gifford

# *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 are given to the glory of God  
in thanks for the gift of the year just past and of the  
year to come.

## **Gathering**

Preparation for Worship

Isaiah 43:19–21 (NIV)

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.*

Prelude

Coventry Carol

Olive Nelson Russell

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord in the heavens; praise God with the hosts on high!

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise God all you shining stars!**

Praise the Lord from earth to sky, for God commanded and all was created.

**The name of the Lord alone is exalted, and God's splendor covers heaven and earth!**

Let us worship God!

§ Hymn 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, even though we are his own people. While he has come to us, we have not received him. We do not experience new life because we have ignored the coming of the Messiah.**

**Forgive us our sin, transform us from within, and reconcile us to yourself so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.**

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ The Gloria Patri

MEINEKE

**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 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Community Joys and Events



*Sermon Notes*

A Vision for the New Year and Beyond    2 Corinthians 5:16–21; Matthew 4:12–22



## Time of Refreshments and Fellowship

There will be no Sunday School today. Adult classes may meet or not, as they wish. Instead, everyone is invited to share in a time of fellowship between the two worship services. Meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments. Thank you to the Fellowship team for providing refreshments during the Sunday school hour!

### Annual Leaf Raking Party

The All-Church Work Day - Annual Leaf Raking Party (weather permitting) will be on Saturday, January 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be served.

Bags will be provided. Please bring your own rake!  
Come join us in this fun time.

### This Changed Everything

#### 500 Years of the Reformation - Film Series

What: A 6-week documentary film class

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

Where: Fellowship Hall

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

### 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.

### PLEASE HELP US FINISH THE YEAR WELL!

FPCA depends on special end-of-year gifts and giving from our friends and members, and the Lord seems always to provide. Each year we budget to take in over twice a normal month's income in December because of the historic pattern of amazing generosity of our congregation at this time of year. Without this extra giving, we face a difficult finish to 2017, and we will need to dramatically revise our hopes for 2018. Will you please consider a generous gift to the Lord's work through FPCA before the end of the year? May God bless you richly for your generosity!

### FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show

Please join us February 18, 2018 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.

### Text Giving

FPCA's Text Giving number is: 817-318-7013

Visit us at [www.FirstPresTexas.org](http://www.FirstPresTexas.org).

### Year-End Reminders

December 31st is upon us. Please consider these important reminders. In order for contributions to be deductible for 2017, they must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2017, if mailed. If your year-end contribution is given online, it needs to be completed by Friday, December 28th, since December 31st falls on a weekend. Contributions received on or before December 31st will be treated as 2017 gifts. Contributions received after that will be treated as 2018 gifts. Please contact us for further instructions if you wish to make non-cash gifts of stock. Gifts of this type should be planned well in advance to ensure that any transfer of assets will be completed by December 31.

We at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington know that every gift given to FPCA represents a step of faith and sacrifice. Please know that we are sincerely thankful for you and your support of the ministries here at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington.