

January 6, 2019
First Presbyterian Church
Epiphany Sunday



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

Organist: Shina Heo

8:30 Lay Leader: Tina Hanson

11:00 Lay Leader: Betsy McDermott

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 memory of Frances Cooper.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Matthew 2:6

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.

Voluntary

Prelude

Alexandre Guilmant

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

O come, let us worship the Lord,

for God has done wondrous things!

Introit (11:00)

Go Tell It On the Mountain

§ Hymn 147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your starlight beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One. Strengthen our faltering steps, and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ The 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.

§ Passing the Peace

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

§ Hymn 151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading	Isaiah 60:1-3	Old Testament page 690
Children's Time (11:00)	Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 216.	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	New Testament page 2
The Sermon	Epiphany: God Becomes Manifest	Rev. McDermott

The Table

Offertory (8:30)	Communion	Marcel Dupré
(11:00)	What Child Is This	Traditional

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

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 146	Gentle Mary Laid Her Child	TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
§ Charge and Benediction		the congregation joins hands
§ Postlude	Sortie	Alexandre Guilmant



The Lord's Prayer

for the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Texas

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.

Comments for Contemplation

Epiphany: God Becomes Manifest Isaiah 60:1-3; Matthew 2:1-12

1. About 1400 years ago, in A.D. 614, the Persians (coming from what we know as present-day Iran) invaded the Holy Land under king Khosrau II and destroyed all the Christian churches of Palestine except for one: the basilica at Bethlehem which was built by Constantine and rebuilt by Justinian. They did not destroy it because of the representations of the three _____ or wise men, dressed as Persians, in a mosaic on the facade.
2. Suffice it to say that Herod was prone to paranoia and violence. As we read in our story today, Herod became startled and frightened by the inquiries of these magi or wise men from Persia who asked, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his _____ at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." (Matt. 2:2).
3. But it does make one think about the cosmic implications of what Paul the Apostle said in Galatians 4:4: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children." Perhaps even the night skies of 7 B.C. are confirming that the fullness of time had arrived, that the Messiah had indeed come, and that even the _____ was paying homage to this baby who was born King of the Jews.
4. Is Jesus the Savior of Christians, or is he the Savior of the world? Is Jesus Lord of the Church, or is he Lord of the universe? Did Jesus come to bring me happiness, health and wealth? Or did he come to redeem people from sin, bring joy to the world and to give life more abundant? And will I bow down and _____ Jesus Christ as my Lord and King, or will I, like Herod, only pretend to do so?
5. Matthew's birth narrative is a miniature version of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the author is echoing the history of his own times. There are conversions of Gentiles to faith in Jesus, and persecutions before kings and synagogues and sanhedrins. At Jesus' trial and crucifixion, the secular ruler and "all the chief priests and scribes of the people" were aligned against Jesus. And the same title is in question: "The King of the Jews" was the _____ placed over Jesus' head as he hung on the cross.

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 1/6

8:30 a.m. Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m. Fight Back with Joy
11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Families & Children
 Luncheon
2:00 p.m. PCGRC

Monday 1/7

Preschool Returns

Tuesday 1/8

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class
10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
2:45 p.m. Mentoring Program
6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring

Wednesday 1/9

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Quilting Group
6:00 p.m. Ring of Praise Handbells
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 1/10

2:45 p.m. Mentoring Program
6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring
6:45 p.m. Team Meeting Night

Friday 1/11

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class

Information for the January 20 bulletin should be turned into Kim at the church office by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Esther Albright, Richard Ankele, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Vannah Caylor, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Mike Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Neal Estes, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Sue Perry, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Sarah Rabb, Joanna Rabourn, Al Smithson, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Jake Winkler, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright, Bob Zakrzewski

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at the church office 817-274-8286.

For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Marge Dawson at mdawsonarltx@att.net or 817-980-6825.



Families & Children Luncheon

Today will be the Families and Children Luncheon at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.

THE STORY Continues...January 13

Join us as we continue our 31-week overarching tour of God's Word in the entire Bible using a 31-chapter book of Scriptures chronologically arranged called THE STORY.

Both the sermon series and several Sunday School classes will follow the themes of THE STORY, which requires reading less than three pages/day, or fifteen pages/week. Copies of THE STORY can be ordered through Christianbook.com. Come and discover how your story connects with God's story of steadfast love and mercy.

Poinsettias

There are still poinsettias in the Sanctuary and Chapel, and they are available to anyone who would like one. You may pick them up during office hours this week or after the service this Sunday.

Please turn in your pledge card!

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your blue pledge card for 2019! We appreciate your diligence and commitment to Jesus' mission and ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington. **If you have not turned in your pledge card, you should have received a mailing with another card and return envelope.** We would be most grateful if you would please fill out your card and send the two smaller parts to the church, so that we may know that you are committing yourself anew to the Lord's work at FPCA. Both your name and an approximate annual amount you hope to give in the coming year will help our Stewardship Team as they make plans for 2019 and will encourage us to trust in the Lord's provision for our church.

Thank you so much for helping us to complete our Stewardship campaign and for offering yourself anew to the Lord and his mission at FPCA!

Souper Sunday

Coming up Sunday, January 20, at 12:00 noon will be Souper Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 27, at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will review the Annual Report and the budget for 2019.

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Monday, January 21, will be the Women's Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Saints Alive

Saints Alive will meet on Thursday, January 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S ONLINE PRESENCE

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRETEXAS



Senior Flexibility Class

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class meet on Tuesday and Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There is no charge, but participants will be responsible for purchasing and storing their own exercise equipment. If interested, contact Thomas Dombrowsky at 817-287-9773 or tomasdom@sbcglobal.net.

Save the Date - Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be Monday-Friday, June 10-14, 2019
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon