

December 10, 2017

First Presbyterian Church

The Second Sunday of Advent

An Advent Festival featuring

Messiah an Oratorio

by Georg Friedrich Händel

Part I, Scenes 1–4

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.

Rev. Rich McDermott, pastor
Rev. Chris Campbell, associate pastor
Russell Farnell, minister of music
Josh Lang, organist
The Chancel Choir
The Festival Orchestra

An Advent Festival

11:00 a.m.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God
by Jill Reynolds in celebration of Jim Reynolds,
her father's 97th birthday.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Rev. Rich McDermott

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Chancel Choir members

Messiah: Part I

Scene 1: Isaiah's prophecy of salvation

Prelude

1. Sinfony: *Overture*

Georg Friedrich Händel

Call to Worship

2. Comfort ye my people

Isaiah 40:1-3

Hunter Hendrickson, tenor

*Comfort ye, my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.*

*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

3. Every valley shall be exalted

Isaiah 40:4

Mr. Hendrickson

*Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low,
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

4. And the glory of the Lord

Isaiah 40:5

chorus

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

§ Hymn of Response 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Scene 2: The coming judgment

Call to Confession

5. Thus saith the Lord of hosts Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1

Dr. David Grogan, bass

*Thus saith the Lord of Hosts: Yet once, a little while, and I will shake the heavens and the earth,
the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come.*

*The Lord, whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple; even the messenger of the Covenant,
whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts.*

Prayer of Confession

6. But who may abide the day of His coming Malachi 3:2

Dr. Grogan

*But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.*

Assurance of Pardon

7. And he shall purify the sons of Levi

Malachi 3:3

chorus

*And He shall purify the sons of Levi,
that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.*

§ Hymn of Assurance 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

During the hymn, children age 3 to fourth grade may go with Mr. Kyle to Kids For Christ in room 216.

Proclaiming

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. McDermott

Scene 3: The prophecy of Christ's birth

8. Behold, a virgin shall conceive Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23 Laura Farnell, alto
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, "God with us."
9. O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion Isaiah 40:9; 60:1 Mrs. Farnell and chorus
*O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain,
lift up thy voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah,
behold your God! Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*
10. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth Isaiah 60:2–3 Dr. Grogan
*For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;
but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*
11. The people that walked in darkness Isaiah 9:2 Dr. Grogan
*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.
And they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*
12. For unto us a child is born Isaiah 9:6 chorus
*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His Name shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace!*

Responding

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Chris Campbell

The Lord's Prayer Sung

(see page 4)

Scene 4: The annunciation to the shepherds

Call to Offering

Rev. McDermott

Offertory

13. Pifa: Pastoral Symphony

Affirmation of Faith

- 14a. There were shepherds abiding in the fields Luke 2:8 Pat May, soprano
There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
- 14b. And lo, the angel of the Lord Luke 2:9 Cassandra Kirby, soprano
*And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.*
15. And the angel said unto them Luke 2:10–11 Mrs. May
*And the angel said unto them,
"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*
16. And suddenly there was with the angel Luke 2:13 Ms. Kirby
*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God, and saying,*
17. Glory to God in the highest Luke 2:14
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men."

Sending

§ Hymn of Response 113

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands



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.

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.

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.

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.

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 hats 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 hats 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.

Gifts of Hope are back!

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.

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 service will be in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or 31. 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.

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.

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!

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.

Stewardship 2018

Please help us by turning in a pledge card.

We are sending a second mailing to those from whom we have not yet heard, and there are additional pledge cards in the pews. We ask all of our friends and members 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!

Arlington Mobile Food Pantry

FPCA has joined about 9 other Arlington churches to help staff a Mobile Food Pantry. Providing food and support staff are The Tarrant Area Food Bank, Arlington Charities, and Arlington Urban Ministries. We have been to several planning sessions and plan to serve the southeast side of Arlington. St. Andrews Methodist Church has offered their parking lot, and the second Saturday morning of each month has been set for the distributions. The training session is on the evening of Tuesday, January 9. Saturday, January 13, has been set for the first distribution. For FPCA to participate, we will need several of our church members to sign up on each Saturday with this outreach to our community. Call Sheri Quick at 817-451-8586 or email sheriq@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.

This week @ FPCA

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| Sunday 12/10 | 9:45 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Advent Festival Service |
| | 2:00 p.m. | PCGRC |
| Monday 12/11 | 3:30 p.m. | Blanton Kids Beach Club |
| Tuesday 12/12 | 9:00 a.m. | Senior Flexibility Class |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Ladies Bible Study |
| | 6:30 p.m. | HOPE Tutoring |
| Wednesday 12/13 | 8:00 a.m. | Men's Bible Study |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Quilting Group |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Ring of Praise Handbells |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday 12/14 | 6:00 p.m. | The Well |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Worship Team Meeting |
| | 6:30 p.m. | HOPE Tutoring |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Session Meeting |
| Friday 12/15 | | Newsletter Deadline |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Senior Flexibility Class |

Information for the December 24 bulletin should be turned in to the church office today, or emailed to kim@firstprestexas.org by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Esther Albright, Yvonne Babb, Elaine Bahn, David Boice, Debbie Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Laura and Moses Duffney, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Claudia Johnson, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, John Pittman, Jim L. Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, Albert Ross, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, 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 Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.

Staff Directory

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|------------------|---|--|
| Rich McDermott | Senior Pastor | rich@firstprestexas.org |
| Chris Campbell | Associate Pastor for Missional Discipleship | chris@firstprestexas.org |
| Russell Farnell | Minister of Music | russell@firstprestexas.org |
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