

December 23, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

Fourth 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. Chris Campbell

Liturgist: Rev. Rich McDermott

Organist: Shina Heo

8:30 Lay Leader: Diane Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Paula Thomson

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 poinsettias are given to the glory of God.
Flowers in the narthex are given by Sarah Rabb and family, in loving memory of Richard G. (Dick) Rabb.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Micah 5a

And he shall be the one of peace.

Prelude

Et Exultavit Spiritus Meus

J. S. Bach

(8:30) Shina Heo, organ Cheryl Harris, piano

(11:00) Susie Rockett, oboe Cheryl Harris, piano

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(8:30) Suzie McCoy, Phil Austin

(11:00) Jim & Sheri Quick, Porter J. Lu

Introit (11:00)

His Name

Sally Morris

§ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

O Lord, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be. The very ones you favor, we often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. Help us to live secure in your love; help us to be the people of peace for our world, and teach us to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray. 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 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46–55

New Testament page 57

Children’s Time (11:00)

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

Anthem (11:00) A Christmas Carol Charles Ives

*Little star of Bethlehem, do we see thee now? Do we see thee shining o'er the tall trees?
Little child of Bethlehem, do we hear thee in our hearts?
Hear the angels singing: Peace on earth good will to men! Noel!
O'er the cradle of a king, hear the angels sing: In excelsis gloria!
From his father's home on high, lo! for us he came to die;
Hear the angels sing: Venite adoremus Dominum.*

Scripture Reading Micah 5:2-5a Old Testament page 865

The Sermon Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All Rev. Campbell

Responding

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offertory Quia Respexit J. S. Bach
(8:30) Shina Heo, organ Cheryl Harris, piano
(11:00) Susie Rocket, oboe Cheryl Harris, organ

§ The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

§ Affirmation of Faith (11:00) The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sending

§ Hymn 105 People, Look East BESANÇON

§ Charge and Benediction the congregation joins hands

Postlude The Nativity of the Lord Olivier Messiaen



Sermon Notes

Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All

Luke 1:46-55; Micah 5:2-5a

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery will be provided.

Save the Date - Vacation Bible School

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



FIGHT BACK WITH JOY: Celebrate More, Regret Less, Stare Down Your Greatest Fears

This Bible Study by Margaret Feinberg will be our Sunday School topic through Epiphany, Dec. 23, 30 and Jan. 6. This will be a great opportunity for friends and family who struggle during the holidays at this time of year. Margaret will be our teacher through an excellent DVD series.

She will teach us on six topics in five weeks:

Dec. 9: Secrets of Joyful People; The Hidden Treasure of Joy;

Dec. 16: Poke Holes in the Darkness;

Dec. 23: A Side of Joy No One Talks About;

Dec. 30: The Holy Mess of Joy;

Jan. 6: What to Do When Those You Love Are Hurting.

While no books are necessary for this study, a Bible Study book (yellow) and Margaret's book (green) on the topic are available to be purchased online through LifeWay.com, Christianbook.com, and Amazon.com. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM Sundays, and bring a friend or family member.

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 12/23

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

Monday 12/24

Preschool Closed
Church Office Closed at 12 noon
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday 12/25

Preschool & Church Office Closed

Wednesday 12/26

Preschool Closed

Thursday 12/27

Preschool Closed

Friday 12/28

Preschool Closed

Information for the January 6 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, Bill and 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.

Staff Directory

Rich McDermott	Senior Pastor	rich@firstprestexas.org
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Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	russell@firstprestexas.org
Shina Heo	Organist	shina@firstprestexas.org
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Cheryl Harris	Music Ministry Associate	cheryl@firstprestexas.org
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Kim Lewis	Administrative Ministry Assistant	kim@firstprestexas.org
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	jane@firstprestexas.org

Can you offer a special gift to FPCA this year at Christmas?

As we face the end of 2018 at FPCA, we are encouraged by the generous giving this year by our congregation. We are in an excellent position to finish the year well. With a small deficit of about \$19,000 going into December, we are poised to eliminate the deficit and finish in the black, but we will need your help with some special year-end gifts. If you can give a special Christmas gift before the end of the year, we would be eternally grateful for your extraordinary generosity. May the Lord bless you richly for your great care for your church.

Remember, on Christmas Eve, December 24, FPCA generously gives all the undesignated gifts in the offering plate to the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services ministry, which assists at-risk youth and families to grow into their God-given potential. Thank you for joining us on that special occasion.

THE STORY Continues...January 13

Join us as we continue our 31-week overarching tour of God's Word in the entire Bible (pausing for Advent and Christmas), 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.

The Mitten Tree

Please help families during this Christmas season and during the cold winter months by bringing new warm gloves, hats, and scarves and hang them on the Mitten Tree! These will be given to Arlington Charities for children and adults in time for Christmas. The Mitten Tree is located by the choir room. Please stop by and make someone's Christmas happy...and WARM!

The Dove Tree

The Dove Tree will be up December 1 in the Westminster Hall. 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.

December's Two Special Offerings

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

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 <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy>.

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

Submitted by Sheri Quick and Bob Dawson, Mission and Evangelism Team

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 know something of what to anticipate in 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!