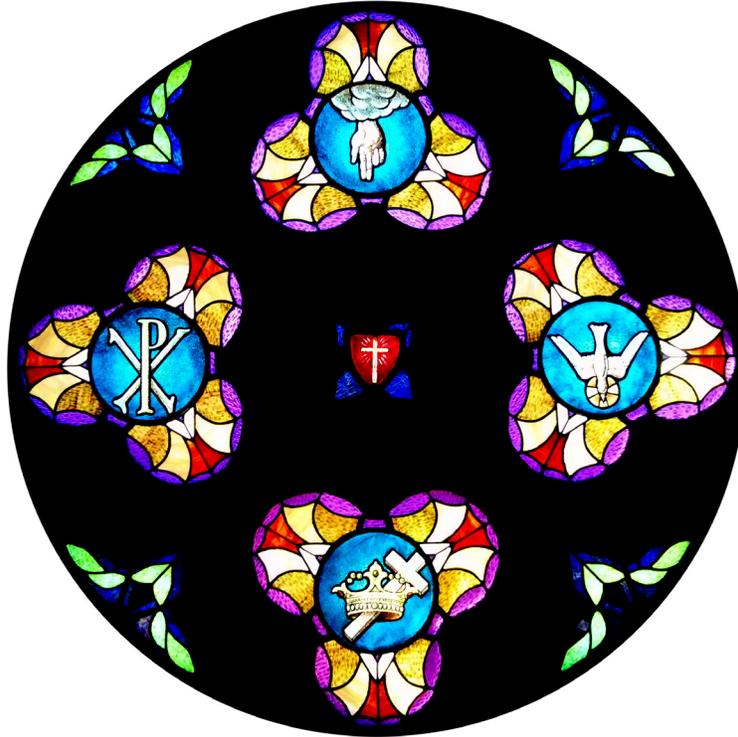


December 16, 2018
First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent



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

Organist: Shina Heo

8:30 Lay Leader: Samuel Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Jamee Shroyer

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

Phillis Tickle

Joy is born out of trust and hope and gratitude and faith in the coming Kingdom. We have a reason to rejoice. Joy is the affirmation of the truest things of all: redemption, restoration, reconciliation. The joy of the Lord is rooted in the now and the not-yet of the Kingdom of God.

Prelude

This Is a Day of Rejoicing

J. S. Bach

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(8:30) Christine Apperson, Mitzie Brown
(11:00) The Gottmann Family

Introit (11:00)

His Name

Sally Morris

§ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Stanzas 1-4

VENI EMMANUEL

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

Almighty God, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. 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 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Community Joys and Events

The Order for Confirmation (11:00)

Zora Anyambod, Edrea Akosu, Max Burger, Otto Burger,
Allison Carlisle, Andrew Carlisle, Will Cohen, Erin Ken

§ 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.**

Confirmation Sunday Reception

There will be a Reception following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall.

Comments for Contemplation

The Power in Praise

Psalm 150:1–6; Luke 2:25–38

1. At a time like this, in the season of Advent and Christmas, one doesn't have to look far to see how hard it is to keep our focus on Jesus in the midst of all the hoopla and commercialism. You may not believe it, but in many ways, it may be easier to be a faithful Christian in _____ than in the United States.
2. Over the years I have come to realize that there is great power in learning the discipline of the worship and praise of God. The people at the Faith Alive Clinic in Nigeria have underlined that for me. Even in the midst of their difficult circumstances, they don't blame God for their situation, because they know God _____ them, all the time, every day.
3. So praise is really an offering of ourselves to the Lord that recognizes the Lord's amazing greatness and our relative insignificance, as we say, "You are awesome and holy, Lord. Use me as you wish." A mature worshiper of God understands that true worship and praise are all about God, and not about us. It is about taking the focus off of ourselves, even for a short time, and putting the spotlight on the _____ of the universe and what He wants in us and of us.
4. In our culture today, though, we are constantly making worship about us: our wants, our desires, our understanding, our needs, our tastes, our nourishment, our feelings, our emotions, and of course, our attention span. Almighty God, who is here with us, created a universe that is at least 13 billion light-years in size, filled with galaxies, black holes, nebulae, and literally more balls of fire than we can count, but we _____ about gathering to worship the Lord with others for one hour a week.
5. Because Simeon and Anna were people of prayer, and were devout in their worship, they were prepared to recognize Jesus for who he was: the Savior who is the Messiah, the Lord. Their praise of God was the natural reaction of those who had been so prepared. So the question for us is, on this third Sunday of Advent, how _____ are we for the coming of the Messiah?



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

FIGHT BACK WITH JOY, a Bible Study by Margaret Feinberg will be our Sunday School topic for five weeks during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Dec. 9, 16, 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.

Gifts of Hope

This is the last Sunday to order your Gifts of Hope cards.

Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift market that offers a creative and caring way to honor friends, family members, colleagues, etc. through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. "Shoppers" choose an organization, donate the amount specified, and then receive a card to give as a gift to friends or family. This program not only supports outreach organizations, but also seeks to offer a less materialistic option for gift giving.

If you have any questions please email Laura Farnell at laura.farnell@gmail.com or call or text (682) 478-5676.

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

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...

Sermon Series and Study Resumes 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.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S ONLINE PRESENCE
MAKE SURE TO LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!
GO TO
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRETEXAS



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!

This week @ FPCA

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| Sunday 12/16 | 8:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. | Confirmation Sunday Worship in Chapel Fight Back with Joy Worship in Sanctuary PCGRC |
| Tuesday 12/18 | 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. | Senior Flexibility Class Ladies Bible Study Session Meeting |
| Wednesday 12/19 | 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. | Quilting Group Preschool Christmas Party Ring of Praise Handbells Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday 12/20 | | Preschool Closed |
| Friday 12/21 | | Preschool Closed |

Information for the December 30 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 Rouborn, 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

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