

December 22, 2019

First Presbyterian Church

The 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: Cheryl Harris

8:30 Lay Leader: Jonathan Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Samuel Terwilliger

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.

Please silence all phones and devices.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God.

The flowers are given to the Glory of God
by Sarah Rabb in memory of Dick Rabb.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

*God's faithfulness is magnified in the coming of his Son,
in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah.*

*We too proclaim God's greatness when we rejoice
in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Prelude

Fantasy on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Evan Copley

Lighting the Advent Candles

(8:30) Kathi Dailey and Clay Carlisle
(11:00) The Campbell Family

This Advent, we call out to God.

Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from you.

We ask for your mercy to reform us in your image. Shine on us, O God of justice.

Come to us, O Christ the Light. Amen.

Call to Worship

My soul magnifies the Lord. **My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

For the Mighty One has done great things, **and holy is God's name.**

Let us worship God.

\$ Hymn 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

\$ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,

yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that

our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.

We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.

Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,

that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. 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 350

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18–25

New Testament page 1

Children's Time (11:00)

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

Anthem (8:30)

Christmas Grace
Jane Leathem, soprano

Ruth Schram

(11:00)

The Jesus Gift

Gilbert Martin

*Shall I gather emeralds? Shall I bring him gold?
Shall I shower diamonds white hard, bright cold?
Shall I spangle jewels like stars above?
Give him laughter. Bring peace-filled laughter. Offer him warm laughter and love.
Simplest of gifts, gentlest of hearts. Kindness he'll use as he leads.
So give him these gifts: hand him your hearts.
Honor his birth and you'll need no
Emeralds nor rubies, silver nor gold.
Neither bright diamonds white hard, bright cold.
Spangle not rich jewels like stars above.
You'll have laughter: sweet peace-filled laughter; simple warm laughter and love.*

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26–38

New Testament page 56

The Sermon

Mary and Joseph

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.**

The Offering of Our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Offertory

Partita IX, BWV 767

J. S. Bach

§ 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

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 29

Why is the Son of God called Jesus, which means Savior?

**Because he saves us from our sins, and because salvation is to be sought or found in no other.
Amen.**

Sending

§ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanzas 1, 6, 7

VENI EMMANUEL

§ Charge and Benediction

the congregation joins hands

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Michael Bedford



Sermon Notes

Mary and Joseph Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–38

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 12/22

8:30 a.m.	Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
2:00 p.m.	PCGRC

Monday 12/23 **Preschool Closed for Christmas**

Tuesday 12/24 **Preschool Closed for Christmas**
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday 12/25 **Preschool & Church Office Closed for Christmas**

Thursday 12/26 **Preschool Closed for Christmas**

Friday 12/27 **Preschool Closed for Christmas**

Information for the January 5 bulletin should be turned in to Kim at the church office by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Marge Dawson, Michael Deardorff, The Farnell Family, Don Farrell, The Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Betsy Pense, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Karl Winter

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, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Polly Baugh, Shirley Bragg, Renabel Clutz, Bobbie and Tom Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary and Ruth Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Al Smithson, Betty Snowden, Lorraine Swanson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright.

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

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

A Little Christmas Eve Fellowship

Before you go home after Christmas Eve service, be sure to join the Hospitality Team for cookies, coffee, and cocoa! Come directly after service and outside the Sanctuary in the Red Hall. It won't last long, and we'd love to spread the cheer of Christmas that we know will soon be here!

Financial Peace University

Never worry about money again with Financial Peace University (FPU), the nine-lesson course that gives you the proven plan to master budgeting, pay off debt, build wealth, and give generously. The course centers around lessons taught by Dave Ramsey, Chris Hogan and Rachel Cruze, followed by small group discussions. FPU includes your member workbook as well as one year of free access to Financial Peace Membership, where you'll find tons of online resources to help you start winning with money. Contact Katina Gifford at: 817-565-3835 for more info.

Saturdays, Feb. 1, 2020 - March 28, 2020

Location: Parlor, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Childcare available upon request

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

FPCA's Two Special Offerings in December

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. A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations a direct way 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 read a brief account of how one family benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/story/arms-church-around-us/>. Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve services, the offerings that aren't designated otherwise will benefit 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

Estimate of Giving Cards

Thanks to all of you who have turned in your Estimate of Giving card for 2020! We are so grateful for your commitment to Jesus' mission and ministry at FPCA! **If you have not turned in your Estimate of Giving card, please do so as soon as possible!** We need to wrap up our Will You Grow? generosity campaign for our annual giving. Cards can be located in the Narthex, or in the hall outside the chapel, or in the church office, or you can fill one out online! Your name and your estimate of giving will help our WYG team out considerably! Thank you so much for helping us to complete our WYG campaign, and for committing yourself anew to the Lord and His mission at our church! May God bless you!

January 11th

10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parlor

ATTENTION, LADIES!!! It's said that a new year brings 365 new opportunities to develop new habits. Please join us for brunch and start 2020 off right by learning how to develop the discipline of daily quiet time with the Lord. Feel free to bring a friend!!

Registration:

December 22, December 29, January 5

Chapel Hall at 9:30, Red Hall at 10:45 and Noon

Cost: \$10

Registration forms are also available on the church website: (www.firstprestexas.org).

Childcare provided upon request

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 is up outside the choir room in the Westminster hall. Each dove has a name of one of our home bound members. Please take a dove and make a visit to one of our senior members. A small gift, a visit, poinsettia, etc. will brighten their Christmas season and you will be blessed in return.