

November 29, 2020

# First Presbyterian Church

## The First 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.

Preaching: Rev. Chris Campbell

Liturgist: Rich McDermott

Organist: Shina Heo

# *The Worship of God*

11:00 a.m.

The greenery is offered to the Glory of God.

**Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.**

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Please silence all phones and devices

## **Gathering**

### Preparation for Worship

*[Jesus said:] Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. "The second half of this statement was going to change the world. The implication is that there were things that were not Caesar's. The right to dictate worship did not belong to Caesar. The claim to ultimate allegiance did not belong to Caesar. The valuation of human worth did not belong to Caesar. The religious conscience of a single, powerless Israelite did not belong to Caesar. The title Lord did not belong to Caesar."*

– John Ortberg

### Gathering Music

Shina Heo

### Call to Worship

What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

**The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.**

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

**From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

The law indeed was given through Moses;

**Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Let us praise God.**

### Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**God of grace: You call us to repentance and humility, but we remain proud and self-righteous.**

**You call us to keep awake for your coming, but we close our eyes which are heavy with our own concerns. You desire to heal and inspire us, but we deny our sickness, and our hearts are hardened to your Spirit. Have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us these and all our sins. Grant us courage, faith and humility by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may more perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord we ask it, Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

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

### Anthem

O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
Cassandra Kirby, soprano

Thomas Helmore

### Community Joys and Events

## *Proclaiming*

First Scripture Reading	Isaiah 64:1–9	Old Testament page 694
Second Scripture Reading	Mark 13:24–37	New Testament page 50
The Sermon	Are We There Yet?	Rev. Campbell

## *Responding*

Offering Moment

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.**

§ Affirmation of Faith

Acts 1:7–11

**[Jesus] replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."**

## *Sending*

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

Charles Callahan



*Sermon Notes*

Are We There Yet?

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

# Drive-in Christmas Carol Sing

Saturday, December 5, 4:00 p.m.

We will have a drive-in Christmas carol sing in the South parking lot of the church on Saturday evening, Dec. 5, with the same format as our last September. You may be asking yourself, “**what is a drive-in carol sing?**” People designated spaces and remain in their cars. Our old 1990 Presbyterian hymnals will be able to keep the hymnal already have a hymnal, please live, and there will be a vocal group to help lead the



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The music will be amplified on speakers and broadcast so that you can listen on your car radio and sing along. This will be a participatory event, so we encourage you to sing along in your car with your windows open, so that you can hear others around you, or windows closed if it is too cold! This is a wonderful and safe way to be able to gather and worship together in song as we prepare for the Christmas season.

## Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom. An email will be sent next week with the Zoom link. We will be:

- 1) Voting to elect four Elders, seven Deacons, two Congregational Nominating Team (CNT) and one Trustee;
- 2) Approving the Pastors' Terms of Call.
- 3) Updates on steeple, roof and Capital Campaign.

Thank you for joining us!

## Preschool Teachers Needed

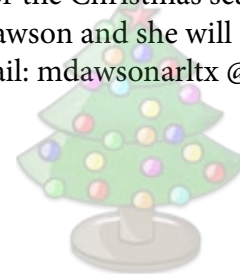
We are currently looking for qualified teachers to fill part-time positions for our Infant, Toddler, and Pre-K classes. If you are passionate about working with children and want to provide them a safe environment that they may grow socially, emotionally, cognitively, and are given opportunities to learn about God’s love, then First Presbyterian Preschool Arlington is just the place for you. We are accepting applications Monday through Friday from 7:30am -5:30pm. You may apply online at [www.fppsarlington.com](http://www.fppsarlington.com), call us at 817-274-4051, or simply stop by the office. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Preschool Staff

## The Mitten Tree 2020

FPCA will not be setting up the Mitten Tree for donations this year. We are not using the portion of the church that houses the tree, and we have a reduced number of members coming physically to the church services. Typically, warm clothing items such as mittens or gloves, socks, scarves, etc. are donated. If you would like to contribute this year, please donate directly to Mission Arlington. You can learn about what they need most, along with other information, on their website: [missionarlington.org](http://missionarlington.org).

## The Dove Tree 2020

If you are interested in “adopting “ one of our shut ins for the church for the Christmas season please call or text Marge Dawson and she will set you up with one or two. Email: [mdawsonarltx@gmail.com](mailto:mdawsonarltx@gmail.com) or call 817-980-6825.



## Christmas Poinsettias!

Please help us prepare our Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior by ordering a poinsettia. We will not be ordering as many as in previous years because of Covid. 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 \$10.00 each and the deadline to order is Sunday, December 13.

## Offering

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings in person today, please use the envelope provided in the pews. You can drop the envelope off in the offering plate while departing the sanctuary when the service is completed. Please feel free to continue giving as you have during this time whether that is mailing checks or giving online. We are most thankful for your generous support!

## Gifts of Hope 2020

FPCA will not be setting up tables for the Gifts of Hope donations this year. We have a reduced number of members coming physically to the church during Covid-19. Typically, members would give a donation for a non-traditional gift (for example, a duck or a chicken through World Vision) and would receive a card to give notifying the recipient that a donation was given to a non-profit organization on behalf of the individual. While we will not be standing in the hallway collecting funds for these gifts, members may go directly to the websites for these individual organizations and submit donations.

- World Vision (gift catalog) <https://donate.worldvision.org/giftcatalog>
- International Justice Mission (gift catalog) <https://gifts.ijm.org/>
- Voice of the Martyrs donate to provide Bibles: <https://www.persecution.com/bibles/>
- Voice of the Martyrs donate to provide Action Packs: <https://www.persecution.com/actionpacks/>
- Arlington Charities online donation: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E254039&id=7>
- Presbyterian Children's Home and Services – participate in the FPCA Christmas Eve Offering via online giving, or sending a check to the church office.

## 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 are in the office, chapel hallway and the narthex or designate on your check which offering you are supporting. If you want envelopes mailed to you, please contact the church to make your request.

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 undesignated offerings will benefit PCHAS. To find out more about PCHAS, visit: <http://www.pchas.org>. You may 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.