

December 6, 2020

First Presbyterian Church

The Second 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: Rev. Rich McDermott

Organist: Shina Heo

The Worship of God

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

Gathering

Gathering Music

Shina Heo

Preparation for Worship

We prepare to witness a Mystery. More to the point, we prepare to witness *The* Mystery, the *God made flesh*. While it is good that we seek to know the Holy One, it is probably not so good to presume we ever complete the task, to suppose that we ever know anything about him except what he has *made known to us*. The prophet Isaiah helps us to remember our limitations when he writes, "To whom then will you compare me...? Says the Holy One." --Scott Cairns

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Gottmann Family

Call to Worship

Psalms 95:6-7

O come, let us worship and bow down,

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For he is our God,

And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

§ Hymn 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

Almighty God and our gracious Heavenly Father: We praise you for loving us with a steadfast love, a love that will not let us go. But we have fallen short of loving others as you have loved us. Our love is not steadfast, and has many limits. We think that the world revolves around us, and we fail to see the hopes and desires of those around us. We withhold our forgiveness, even while we ask for yours. Have mercy on us, and transform our lives.

Forgive us for our petty squabbles, our narrow perspective, and our shallow love for others.

Grant us a renewed commitment to you, that we may live with your love, forgiving others, and trusting in your care for us. We ask it in Jesus' name, 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

§ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Stanza 1

VENI Emmanuel

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

First Scripture Reading	Isaiah 40:1–11	Old Testament page 667
Second Scripture Reading	2 Peter 3:8–18	New Testament page 238
The Sermon	How Soon Is Now?	Rev. Campbell

The Table

The Offering of our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives		
Offertory	What Child Is This? Russell and Laura Farnell, duet	arr. Laura Farnell

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

The Bread and Cup

*11:00 – Eat the bread as it is served. Hold the cup to drink together. While passing the elements, you may say, “**the body of Christ, broken for you,**” and, “**the blood of Christ, shed for you.**”*

Prayer after Communion

Sending

§ Hymn 82	Come Now Long Expected Jesus	HYFRYDOL
§ Charge and Benediction		
Postlude	A Christmas Flourish	Charles Callahan



The Lord's Prayer

for the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Texas

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.

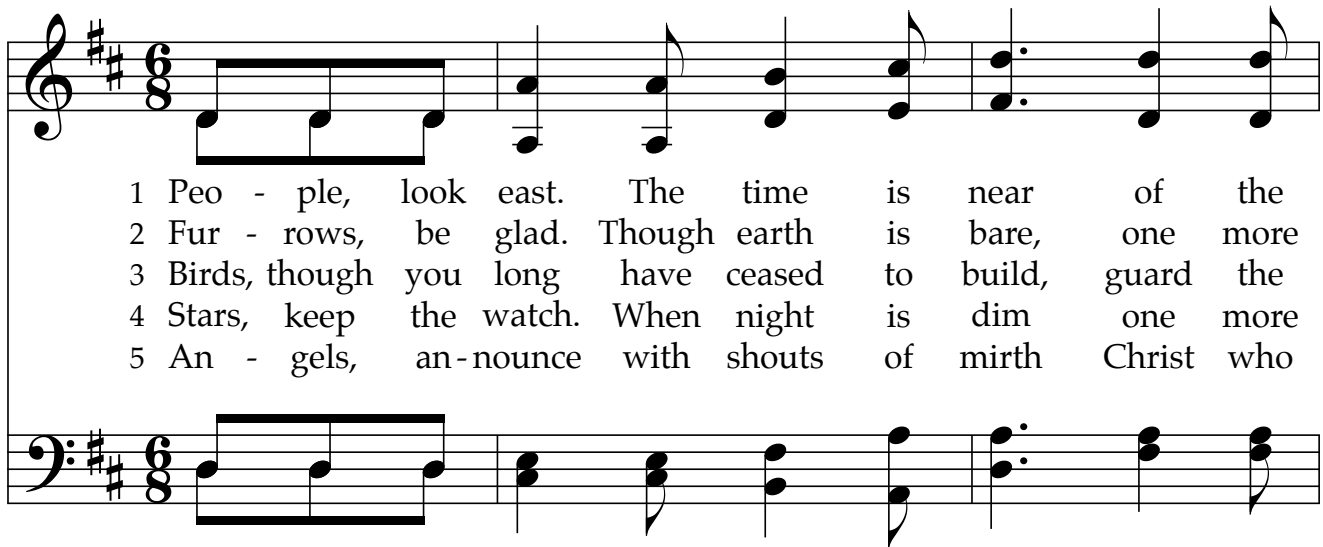
The musical score is written on five staves in 3/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be thy name; _____', 'Thy king - dom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heav - en.', 'Give us 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:', and 'For Thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.'

Sermon Notes

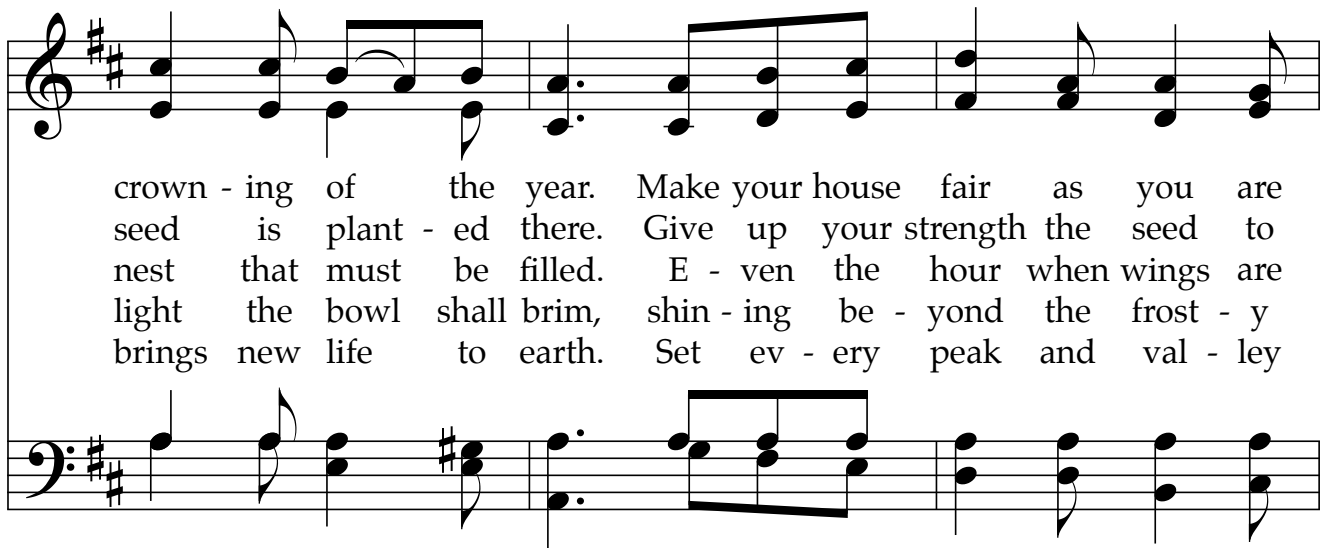
How Soon Is Now? Isaiah 40:1–11; 2 Peter 3:8–18

105

People, Look East

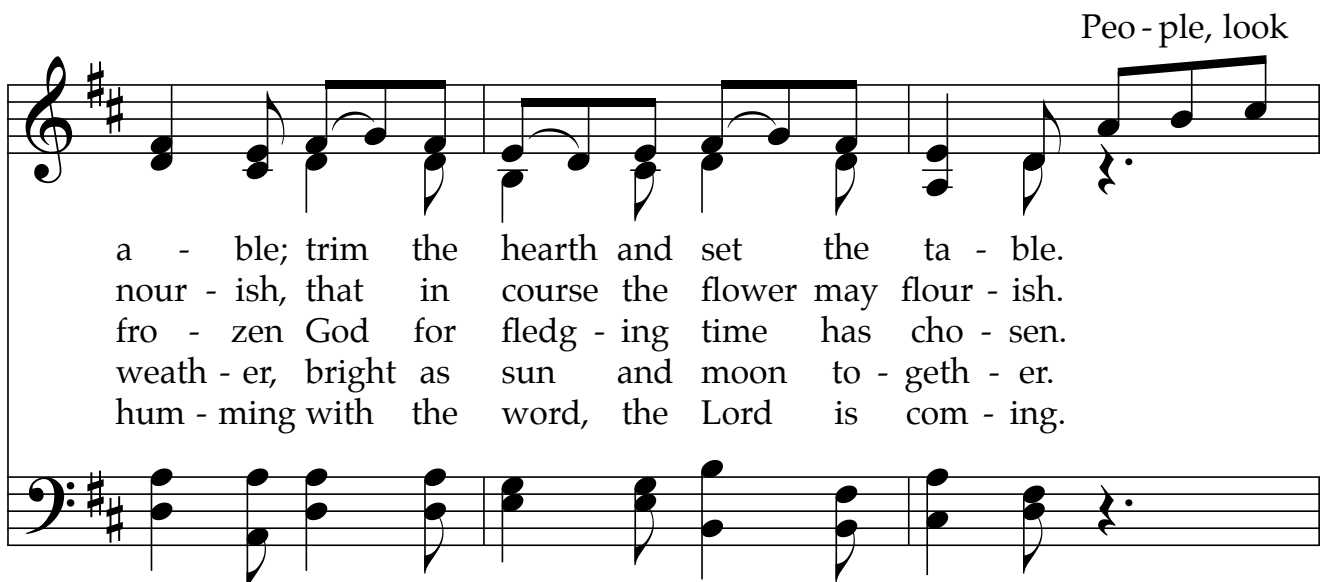


1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

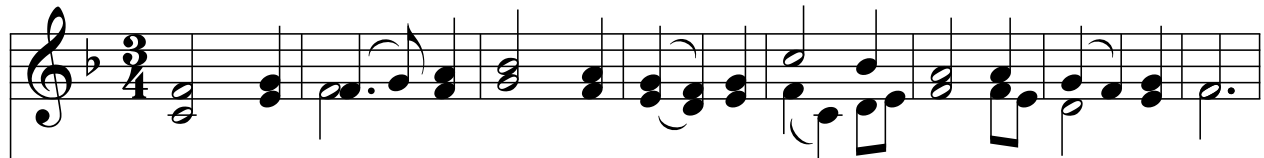
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple

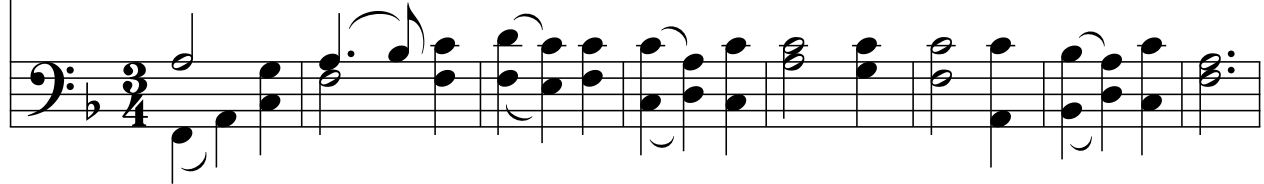
here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

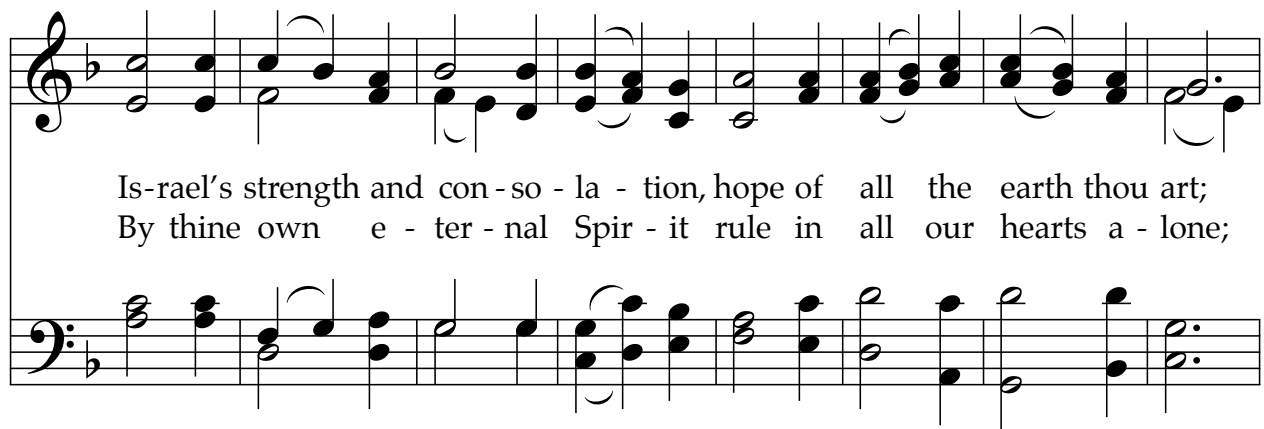
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Congregational Meeting

The Congregational Meeting is today at 2:00 p.m. virtually via Zoom. 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.

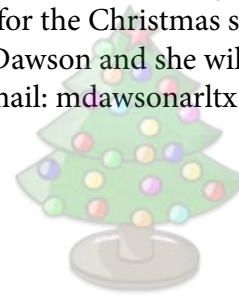
Thank you for joining us!

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.

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 or call 817-980-6825.



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!

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.

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.

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, call us at 817-274-4051, or simply stop by the office. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Preschool Staff

FPCA Newsletter

The Newsletter is available outside the Chapel and in the Narthex. The News continues to be in the church-wide email each month. The Newsletter is also on our church website. By using this digital method to send the Newsletter, the church is saving with both printing and mailing costs. If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please give the church office a call and let them know.

Important Hygiene Information to Remember

For now, in order to keep our church gatherings safe during the era of the coronavirus, remember, please:

1. If you are sick, stay home.
2. If your health is compromised, stay home.
3. Wash your hands with soap and water (20 seconds) regularly throughout the day, and especially before gathering.
4. Minimize touches to your face.
5. Wear a face covering and maintain social distance from those outside your family.
6. Use hand sanitizer if hand washing is unavailable.

At this point in time, we believe these are the appropriate measures to take, and we urge you to continue to come to worship and praise the Lord as one Body in Christ. We realize these may need to change in the future. Thank you for your understanding.