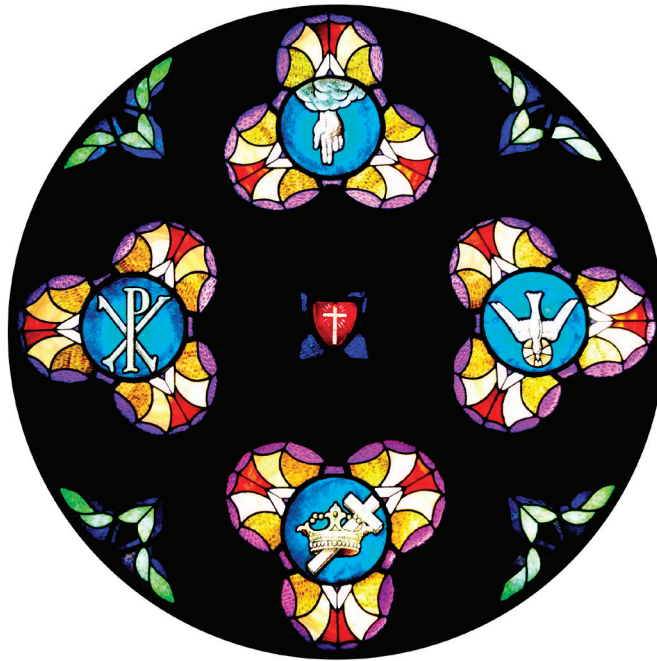


December 18, 2022

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.

Preaching: Rev. Chris Campbell

Liturgist: Adrian Rodriguez

Lay Leader: Edrea Akosu

Organist: Shina Heo

The Worship of God

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Please silence all phones and devices.

Please fill out the Friendship Pad in your pew.

Gathering

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Gordon Young

Preparation for Worship

*God, our light and our salvation, you bring hope and peace to the lowly and oppressed.
Let us see the world through your eyes that we may love the widow and orphan,
that we may work for justice, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the
kingdom at hand and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation: through your Son,
Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Welcome

Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Ngwa/Akosu Family

We light the candle of Peace as a sign of the coming light of Christ,
who is called the Son of the Most High;

Of his kingdom there will be no end.

About the hour of Christ's coming no one knows; therefore keep awake,
for you do not know when the time will come.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God endures forever.

§ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Stanzas 1-4

VENI EMMANUEL

§ Prayer of Confession

**Lord, while we ask for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so
little with so much.**

**Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word,
for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins.**

Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God.

**Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year,
we may have a fresh sense of your presence**

and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ 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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Sermon Notes

The true Christian religion... does not begin at the top, as all other religions do; it begins at the bottom. You must run directly to the manger and the mother's womb, embrace this Infant and Virgin's Child in your arms, and look at Him—born, being nursed, growing up, going about in human society, teaching, dying, rising again, ascending above the heavens, and having authority over all things.

—Martin Luther

Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
night with new - born light. Night can - not this
son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.

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-joice! Re-joice!
 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.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)

Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)

Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)

Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)

Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)

Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

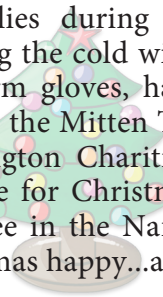
Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

BEYOND Commitments

We hope you heard our exciting Beyond campaign announcement during worship last Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has shown your commitment to the mission and ministries of FPCA for 2023! If you have not turned in a card yet, it's not too late. Feel free to mail it to the church, drop it off in the office, leave it in the offering plate, or submit a digital commitment card by following the link the church's E-news email.

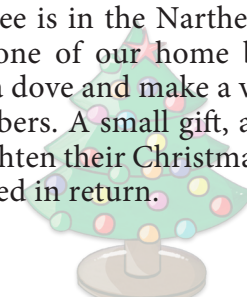
The Mitten Tree

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. Please stop by the Mitten Tree in the Narthex and make someone's Christmas happy...and WARM!



The Dove Tree

The Dove tree is in the Narthex. 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.



Two Special Offerings in December

Our church supports two special offerings during the month of December. Special offering envelopes can be found outside the sanctuary or chapel or you can designate on a blank envelope or your check which offering you are supporting.

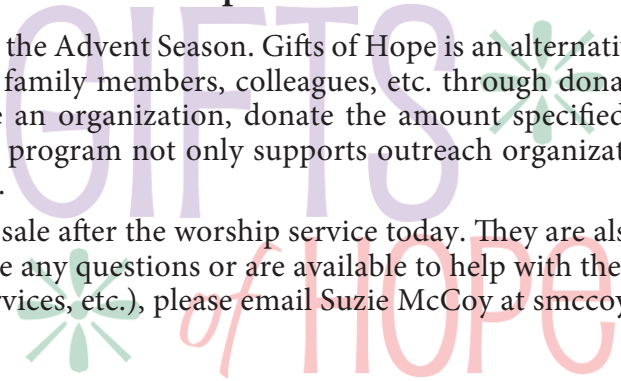
The Christmas Joy Offering is designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations a direct way of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts from the Joy Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to the National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. To read brief accounts of those who have benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/stories/>

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve service, the undesignated offerings will benefit PCHAS. You could also speak to Marge and Bob Dawson, PCHAS Ambassadors and volunteers, about this very worthy organization which supports many children and families. For more about PCHAS, visit: <https://www.pchas.org/who-we-are/pchas-way>

Gifts of Hope — LAST SUNDAY

FPCA is offering Gifts of Hope for the Advent Season. 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.

Gifts of Hope will be available for sale after the worship service today. They are also available for sale in the church office during the week. If you have any questions or are available to help with the program (by selling Gifts of Hope before and after worship services, etc.), please email Suzie McCoy at smccoybelize@gmail.com or contact the church office.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/18	
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship in Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday 12/20	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday 12/21	
Quilting Group	10:00 a.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
CWF Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Friday 12/23	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 a.m.
Saturday 12/24	
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00 p.m.
Sunday 12/25	
NO Sunday School	
Worship in Sanctuary	11:00 a.m.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

The family of Jeanne Malone, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Grady Herzog, the Hydock Family, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Gary Lindley, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welbourne, Danny Womble

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Ryan Powell, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Esther Albright, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Barbara Hughes, Family of Jeanne Malone, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright, Polly Baugh, Lucy Cleaver, Madge Casselman, Elizabeth Harris

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, contact Parish Associate, Jim Shroyer at 682-445-0155 or jim@firstprestexas.org

Staff Directory

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