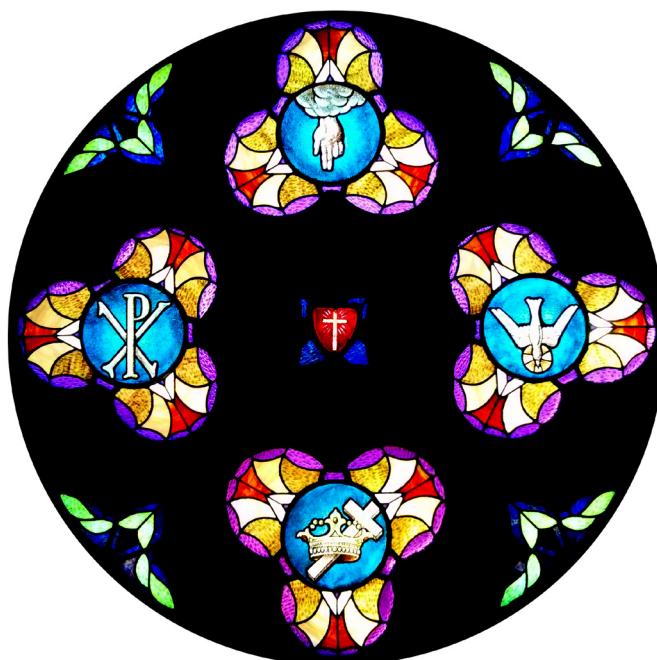


December 3, 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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.

Pastor: Rev. Chris Campbell

Lay Leader: Jodie Schenck

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 row.*

Gathering

Prelude Awake, Calls the Voice to Us Johann Sebastian Bach

Prayer for Preparation

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

Welcome and Opening Prayer Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles The Arredondo family

We light the candle of Hope 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 105 People, Look East BESANÇON

§ Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship.

We keep busy schedules; we rush about.

**Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods,
we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world.**

Forgive us and make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively.

**Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace,
so we do not miss how near you are to our very gates.**

We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ Gloria Patri GREATOREX

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.

Proclaiming

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 Old Testament page 694

Children's Time

Children, age 3 to fourth grade, are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in the 200 hallway.

Anthem

One Small Flame

arr. John Purifoy

*We light a candle as a prayer for hope to shine this night,
a hope to calm our dark despair, a hope born of Your light.
With longing hearts we watch and wait in faith for the Promised One,
that one small flame may light the way for the Child of Hope to come.*

*We light a candle as a prayer for love to shine this night,
a love to fill our emptiness, a love born of Your light.
With longing hearts we watch and wait in faith for the Promised One,
that one small flame may light the way for the Lord of Love to come.*

*We light a candle as a prayer for joy to shine this night,
a joy to heal our brokenness, a joy born of Your light.
With longing hearts we watch and wait in faith for the Promised One,
that one small flame may light the way for the Son of Joy to come.*

*We light a candle as a prayer for peace to shine this night,
With longing hearts we watch and wait in faith for the Promised One,
that one small flame may light the way for the Prince of Peace to come!*

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24–37

New Testament page 50

Sermon

Look Alive

Rev. Campbell

Responding

§ Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Offering our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Offertory

O Holy Night
Frank Cárdenas, trumpet

arr. Nigel Williams

The Table

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.**

The Lord's Prayer sung (see next page)

Words of Institution

The Bread and Cup

Partake of the bread and cup as they are served. Place the cup in the basket that is passed.

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 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

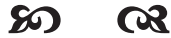
TRURO

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O Come All Ye Faithful
Frank Cárdenas, trumpet

arr. Hans-André Stamm



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.

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.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

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.)



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.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

Christmas Poinsettias

Help prepare the Fellowship Hall to celebrate the birth of the Savior by ordering a poinsettia that will be placed on Sunday, December 17, through the Christmas season. Poinsettia orders can be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. Order forms are available on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. Place completed forms in the basket or the offering plate, or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$13.00 each, and the deadline is December 10.

End-of-Year Giving

As the calendar year draws to a close, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministries of FPCA this year.

Also, we want to share a hopefully, helpful reminder regarding giving as it relates to taxes. We are allowed to give credit to any gift that is received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2023. Of course, you can always give online up to 11:59 pm on 12/31/2023 through here. Other ways to give are described here.

Again, thank you for your prayerful generosity!

Gifts of Hope 2023

GIFTS 
 *of* **HOPE**

FPCA will again be offering Gifts of Hope, an alternative gift market, with an opportunity for youth to participate in this creative and caring way to honor friends and family through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. Using learning activities for youth, needs and the responses offered allow for selection of an organization and aid in designated amounts. Cards are provided to share with honored recipients to indicate the support of outreach organizations that shows God's love around the globe.

Gifts of Hope will be available for purchase before and after worship the first three Sundays in December as well as online thru <https://firstprestexas.org/gifts/> or file attached to the FPCA eNews.

For more information contact Bob Dawson – txt 214-415-5396.

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 near the Fellowship Hall. Please stop by and make someone's Christmas happy...and WARM!

The Dove Tree

The Dove Tree will be up the month of December near the Fellowship 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.

Advent Festival

FPCA Music ministries present
a Christmas Pageant
11:00 a.m., Dec. 10
in the Fellowship Hall

Telling the story of the Nativity
through drama and song

Joy to the World

Women's Advent Party
Tuesday, December 5, 2023
7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

The FPCA Women's Ministry Team invites you to enjoy a night of fellowship with your sisters in Christ as we celebrate the start of Advent – a time of anticipating the coming of our Savior.



Don't let Christmas sneak up on you this year! Come join the fun and enjoy some treats, as we spend time with friends, play games and welcome in the season. We will have a special gift for the first 25 ladies who register...can't wait to see you there!

Registration: \$5 Online

- FPCA Website (www.firstprestexas.org) → Our Ministries → Adult Ministries
- Scroll down to Women's Ministry and register

GIVE a RIDE to those who NEED a RIDE to and from Church and/or Sunday School

The Deacons are compiling a list of drivers by zip code and phone number to provide to members (in the same or near zip code) who can no longer get to and from FPCA! The deacons will supply the member with the list from their geographical area. It will be up to the person who NEEDS a RIDE to contact the person who can GIVE a RIDE. Please call the church office or email Kathy McCoy at jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net with your information to GIVE a RIDE or NEED a RIDE.

Personally I need to be on both lists because you never know when the car won't start or has a flat. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy McCoy at jkmccoy@sbcglobal.net.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/3

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship in Fellowship Hall	11:00 am
Youth and Children's Music Ministries	12:45 pm

Monday 12/4

Tuesday 12/5

Senior Flexibility Class	9:00 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 am
HOPE Tutoring	6:30 pm
Women's Advent Party	7:00 pm

Wednesday 12/6

Men's Bible Study	8:00 am
Quilting, etc	10:30 am
Ring of Praise Handbells	6:00 pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
CWF Bible Study	7:00 pm

Thursday 12/7

Team Meetings	7:00 pm
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Friday 12/8

Senior Flexibility Class	9:00 am
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Saturday 12/9

Advent Festival Rehearsal	9:00 am
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Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Ken Floyd, Jerry Tees, the family of Connie Taylor, the family of Gary Lindley, Harold Thomlinson, Sherry Wolfe, Sheri Quick, Charlie Nieman, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jo Ann Hanson, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Tina Paulk, Aileigh Rodriguez, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Alecia Street, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Danny Womble, Carlos and Jennyfer Zamora

Prayers for family in the armed forces:

Amie Murtha, Colin A. Peden, Christopher Young

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Polly Baugh, Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Barbara Hughes, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight

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

Chris Campbell	Lead Pastor	chris@firstprestexas.org
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	russell@firstprestexas.org
Jim Shroyer	Parish Associate	jim@firstprestexas.org
Reggie Manuel	Facilities Manager	reggie@firstprestexas.org
Shina Heo	Organist	shina@firstprestexas.org
Adrian Rodriguez	Director of Youth Ministry	adrian@firstprestexas.org
Kyle Terwilliger	Director of Children's Ministry	kyle@firstprestexas.org
Eric Gottmann	Director of Social Media	eric@firstprestexas.org
Cheryl Harris	Music Ministry Associate	cheryl@firstprestexas.org
Jeanne Chin	Finance Manager	jeanne@firstprestexas.org
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	jane@firstprestexas.org