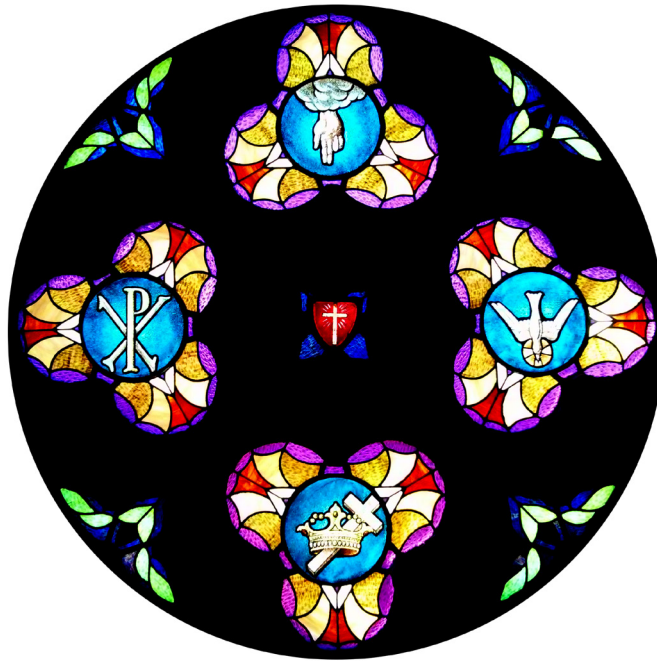


December 17, 2023

First Presbyterian Church

Third 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: Scott May

Organists: Cheryl Harris, 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 In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Todd Marchand
David Clary, trombone Cheryl Harris, organ

Prayer for Preparation

*Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us.
Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations,
and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles The Daniel Family

We light the candle of Joy 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 133 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELIS

§ Prayer of Confession

Holy God, in your presence, we confess that we need repentance.

We have broken your commands against idolatry.

We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.

We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.

Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,

for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. 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

Psalter Reading Psalm 126 Old Testament page 572

Children's Time

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

Anthem

Dost Thou in a Manger Lie?

Robert Powell

*Dost thou in a manger lie, who hast all created,
Stretching infant hands on high, savior, long awaited?
If a monarch, where thy state? Where thy court on thee to wait? Royal purple, where?
Here no regal pomp we see; naught but need and penury: Why thus cradled here?
"Pitying love for fallen man brought me down thus low;
For a race deep lost in sin came I into woe.
By this lowly birth of mine, sinner, riches shall be thine, matchless gifts and free;
Willingly this yoke I take, and this sacrifice I make, heaping joys for thee."
Fervent praise would I to thee evermore be raising;
For thy wondrous love to me Thee be ever praising.
Glory, glory be forever unto that most bounteous giver, and that loving Lord!
Better witness to thy worth, purer praise than ours on earth, angels' songs afford.*

Gospel Reading

John 1:6–8; 19–28

New Testament page 91

Sermon

Second Fiddle

Rev. Campbell

Responding

§ Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

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.**

Offering our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Offertory

Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Sebastian Bach

§ Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

Sending

§ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

§ Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Voluntary in G Major
David Clary, trombone Cheryl Harris, organ

David Lasky



O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Savior of the Nations, Come 102

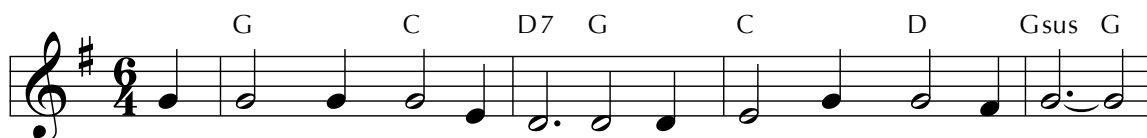
1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

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

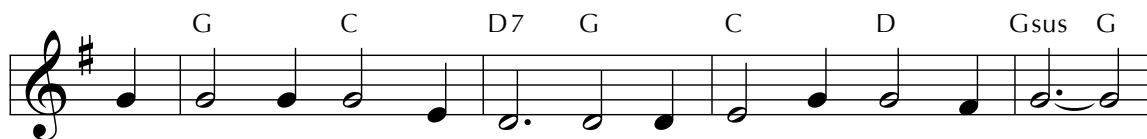
heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

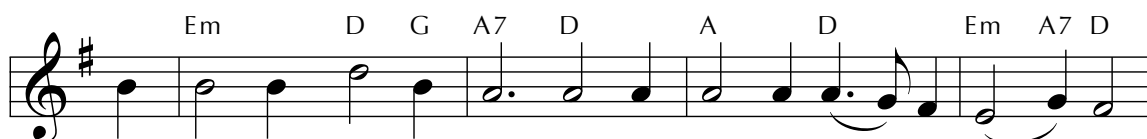
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



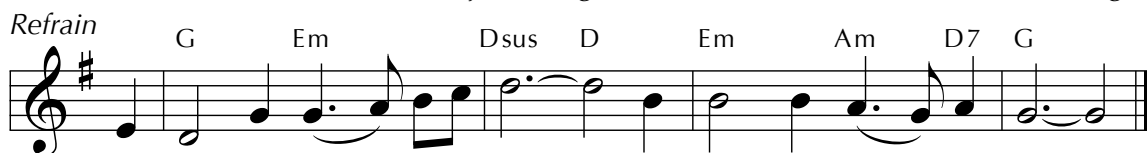
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

2023 Annual Reports

It's that most wonderful time of year when our teams and groups submit their reports for the year. Team leaders and staff are asked to please send your reports to info@firstprestexas.org by the end of this year. Thank you!

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!

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.

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 <https://firstprestexas.org/gifts/> or file attached to the FPCA eNews.

For more information contact Bob Dawson. Text 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.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/17	
Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Monday 12/18	
Tuesday 12/19	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 am
Wednesday 12/20	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 am
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
CWF Bible Study	7:00 pm
Thursday 12/21	
Session Meeting	7:00 pm
Friday 12/22	
Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 am
Saturday 12/23	

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Ken Floyd, Jerry Tees, 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