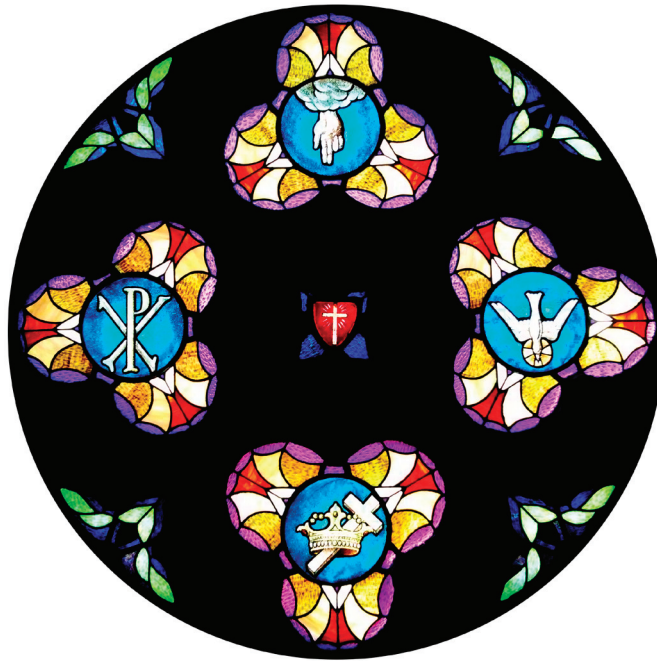


December 24, 2023

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.

Pastor: Rev. Chris Campbell

Lay Leader: Susan Malone

Organists: Shina Heo, Cheryl Harris

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 Hosanna In Excelsis arr. Michael Ware
Donna Vickers, piano Shina Heo, organ

Prayer for Preparation

Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Opening Prayer Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles The Abam Family

We light the candle of Love 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 or 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 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42

§ Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that
our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.
Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. 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 89:1-4; 19-26 Old Testament page 545

Children's Time

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

Anthem For Unto Us a Child Is Born George Frideric Handel

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given:
And the government shall be upon His shoulder, upon and His name shall be called
Wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*

Gospel Reading Luke 1:26–38 New Testament page 56

Sermon Christmas Commitment Rev. Campbell

Responding

§ Hymn 88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL
Stanzas 1, 5–7

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 Veni, Veni Emmanuel Michael Trotta
Ana Caballero Emily Ledesma Laura Farnell

§ 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

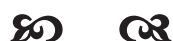
§ Affirmation of Faith Colossians 1:15–20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created
through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that
he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to
dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven,
by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

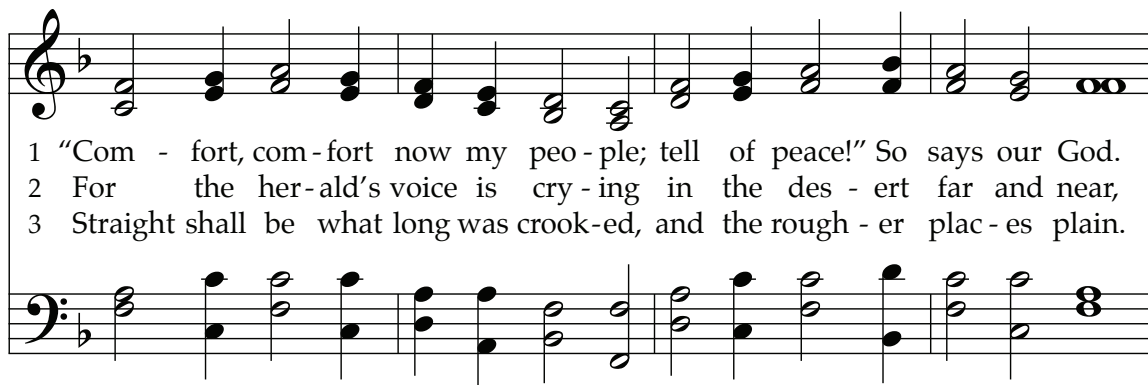
§ Hymn 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

§ Charge and Benediction

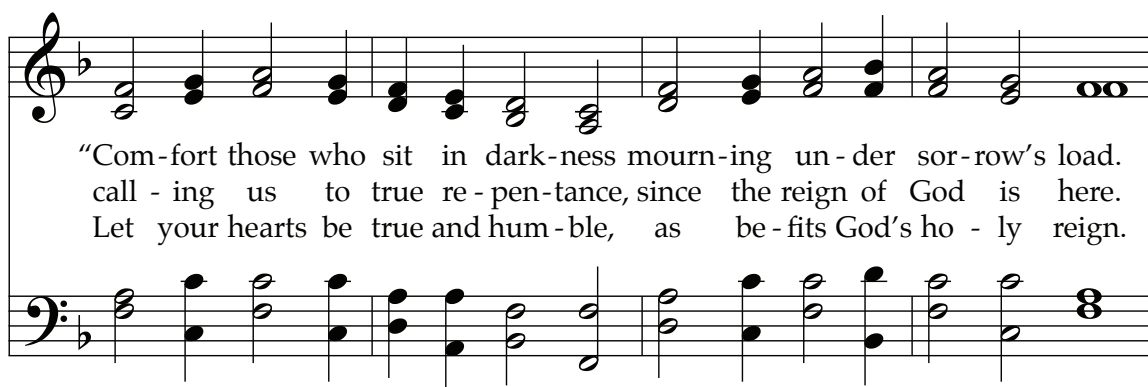
Postlude Toccata in F Major Johann Pachelbel



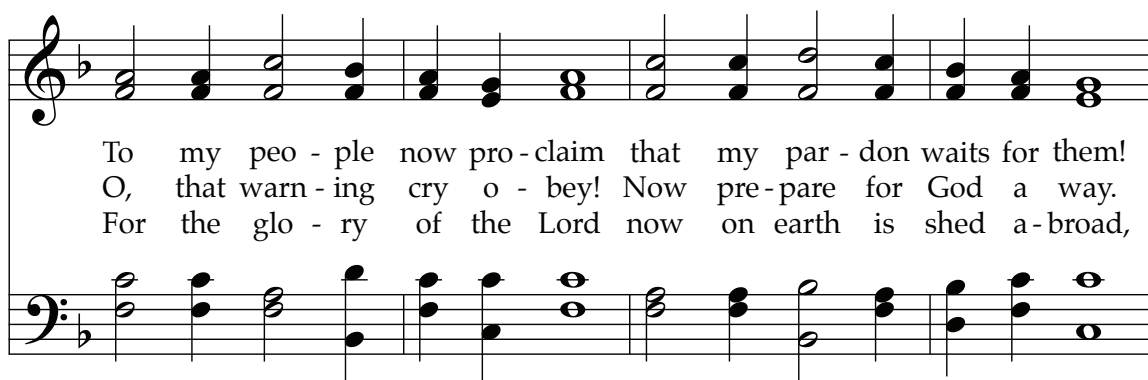
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



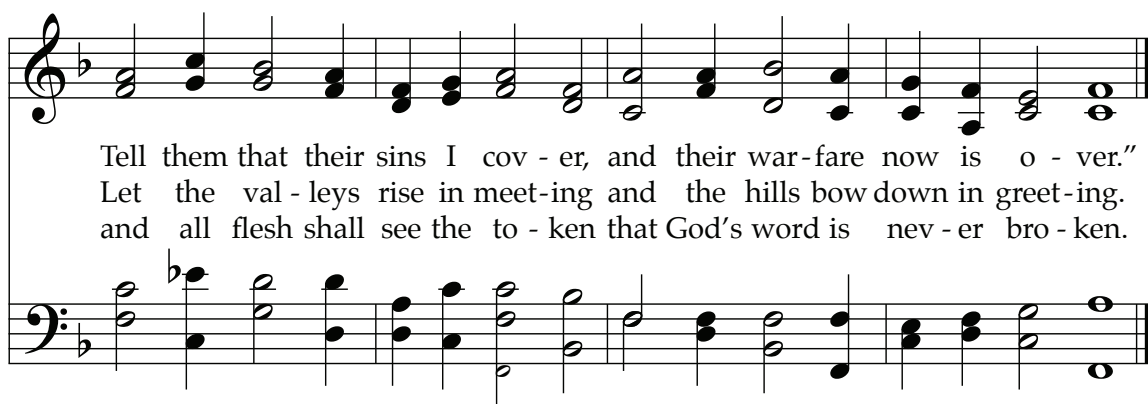
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

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.

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 our church website. 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.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/24

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00 pm

Monday 12/25

Church office Closed through January 1st

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

The family of Carol Moody, Eleanor Schernbeck, 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
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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