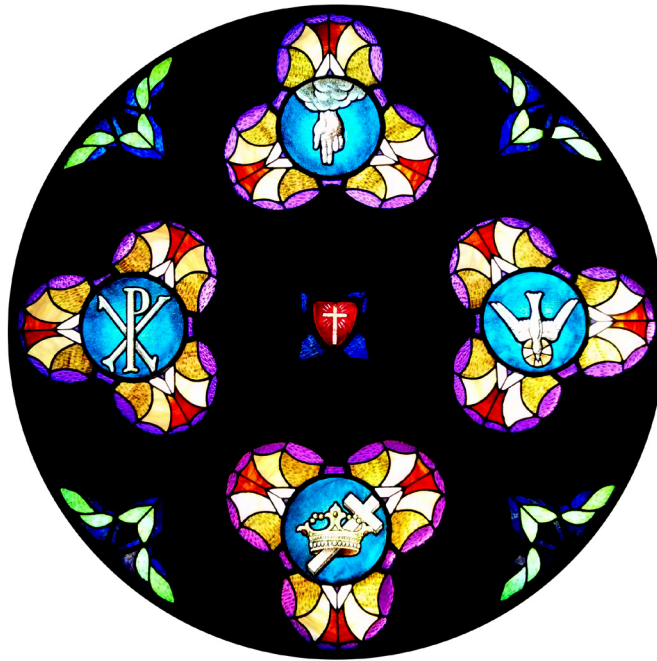


December 22, 2024

# 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: Kathy McCoy

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 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. Jack Jones

Prayer for Preparation

*Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Zamora 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 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, 5-7

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

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***

Gospel Reading Luke 2:25–32 New Testament page 59

Children's Time

Children, age 3 to fourth grade, are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 108.

Anthem Candlelight Carol John Rutter

*How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother, or how can you write down a baby's first cry?  
Candle light, angel light, firelight and starglow shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.  
Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him, seraphim round him their vigil will keep;  
Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.  
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger: Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay,  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation: a child with his mother that first Christmas Day.*

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39–45 New Testament page 57

Sermon Do You Feel What I Feel? Rev. Campbell

## ***Responding***

§ Hymn 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice IN DULCI JUBILO

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 What Is This Lovely Fragrance? Daniel Burton  
Danielle Haury, flute

§ 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

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 54

What do you believe concerning the “Holy Catholic Church”?

**I believe that the Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith.**

**And of this community I am and always will be a living member. Amen.**

§ Hymn 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

§ Charge and Benediction

Rev. Campbell

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

arr. Jack Jones



# 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.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,<br/>             and open wide our heavenly home;<br/>             make safe the way that leads on high,<br/>             and close the path to misery.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br/>             our spirits by thine advent here;<br/>             disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>             and death's dark shadows put to flight.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|--|--|

- 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;

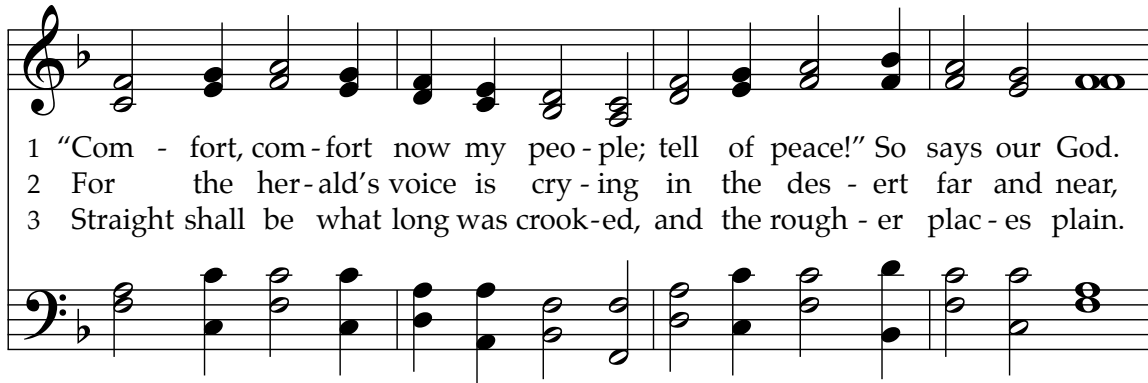
give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pen-ed 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.

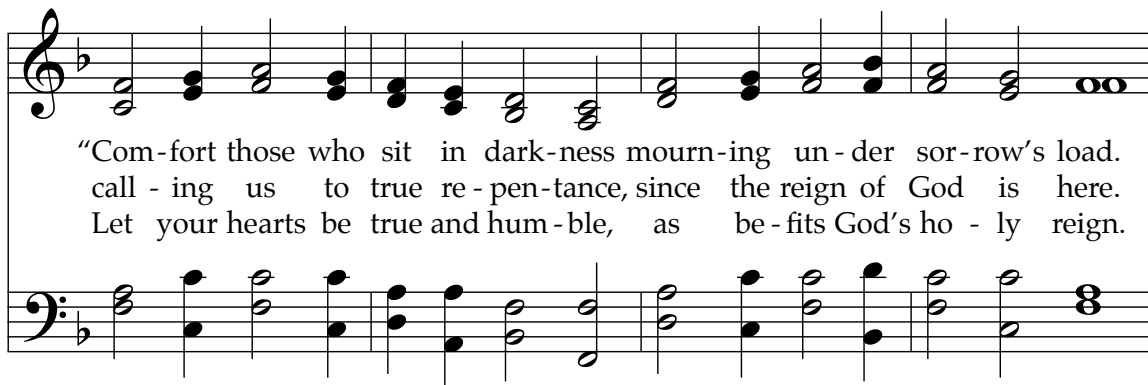
Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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.

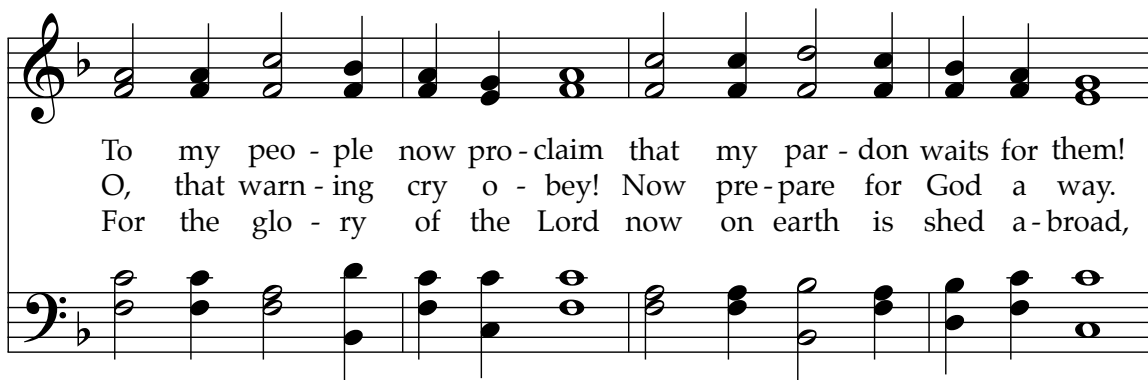
# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



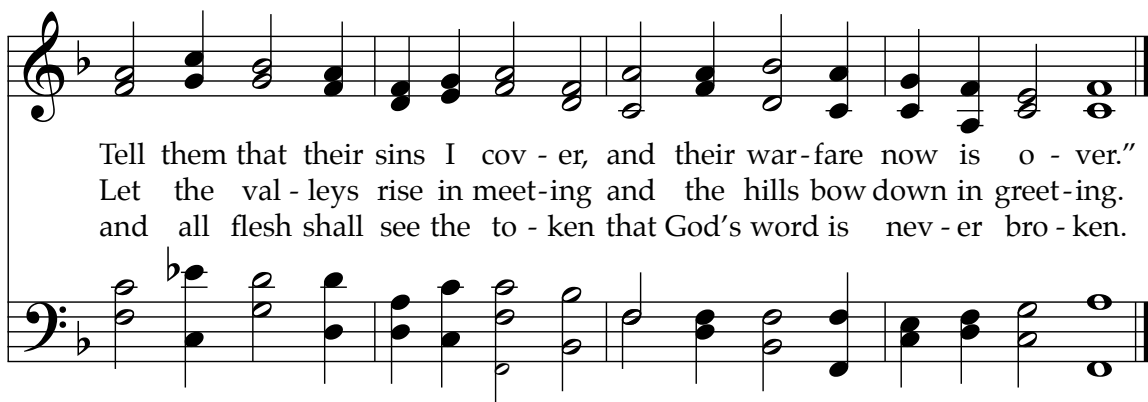
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"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.

## 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, 2024. You can also give online up to 11:59 pm on 12/31/2024 through the link provided in the eNews.

Again, thank you for your prayerful generosity!

## 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 Presbyterian Church - USA. The other goes to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Special offering envelopes can be found in the narthex or you can designate on a blank envelope or on the memo line of your check which offering you are supporting.

A Presbyterian tradition for over 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 brief accounts of those who have benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>.

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve services, 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 with services you or someone you know might find helpful. To find out more about the many services PCHAS offers, visit: <https://www.pchas.org/who-we-are/pchas-way>.

## 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 December 1 in the Westminster 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.

## Gifts of Hope

FPCA will again be offering Gifts of Hope, an alternative gift market, with an opportunity for you to participate in this creative and caring way to honor friends and family through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. 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.

For more information contact Suzie McCoy – txt 817-271-5995.

## Wednesday Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Women's Bible Study meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. Currently the meeting location is in the Fellowship Hall. This year's study is the 2024-2025 PE/Horizons Bible Study "Let Justice Roll: God's call to care for Neighbors and All Creation." A light snack is served at each meeting. Members volunteer to lead the discussion and/or to bring a snack. All women are invited.

Questions? Contact Debbie Richardson ([der817@gmail.com](mailto:der817@gmail.com)) or Sheri Quick ([sheriq@aol.com](mailto:sheriq@aol.com)).

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/22

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Memorial Service for Bobby Gamblin	2:00 pm

Monday 12/23

Tuesday 12/24

Senior Flexibility Class	9:30 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00 pm

Wednesday 12/25

Church office will be closed through the end of the year and reopened on Monday, January 6

Thursday 12/26

Friday 12/27

Saturday 12/28

## Prayer Ministry

*Prayers for those with health and other concerns:*

Addie Rodriguez, Ann Scarr, Jennifer Meyer, Charles Arnold, Jo Ann Nichols, Bob Hanson and his family, Mia Navarro and her family, Billie Jo Campbell, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Charlie Nieman, Tina Paulk, Jim and Sheri Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, Eleanor Schernbeck, Tonya Scrabeck, Lorna Snyder, David Spencer, Larry Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble

*Prayers for family in the armed forces:*

Colin A. Peden, Christopher Young, Wolfgang Van Wie

*Prayers for our home-bound members:*

Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, 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](mailto:jim@firstprestexas.org)

## Staff Directory

Chris Campbell	Lead Pastor	<a href="mailto:chris@firstprestexas.org">chris@firstprestexas.org</a>
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music/Facilities Admin	<a href="mailto:russell@firstprestexas.org">russell@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jim Shroyer	Parish Associate	<a href="mailto:jim@firstprestexas.org">jim@firstprestexas.org</a>
Reggie Manuel	Custodian	<a href="mailto:reggie@firstprestexas.org">reggie@firstprestexas.org</a>
Shina Heo	Organist	<a href="mailto:shina@firstprestexas.org">shina@firstprestexas.org</a>
Stephanie Arredondo	Director of Youth Ministry	<a href="mailto:youth@firstprestexas.org">youth@firstprestexas.org</a>
Kyle Terwilliger	Director of Children's Ministry	<a href="mailto:kyle@firstprestexas.org">kyle@firstprestexas.org</a>
Eric Gottmann	Director of Social Media	<a href="mailto:eric@firstprestexas.org">eric@firstprestexas.org</a>
Cheryl Harris	Music Ministry Associate	<a href="mailto:cheryl@firstprestexas.org">cheryl@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jeanne Chin	Finance Manager	<a href="mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org">jeanne@firstprestexas.org</a>
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	<a href="mailto:jane@firstprestexas.org">jane@firstprestexas.org</a>
Bob Watkins	Prayer Ministry	<a href="mailto:prayer@firstprestexas.org">prayer@firstprestexas.org</a>