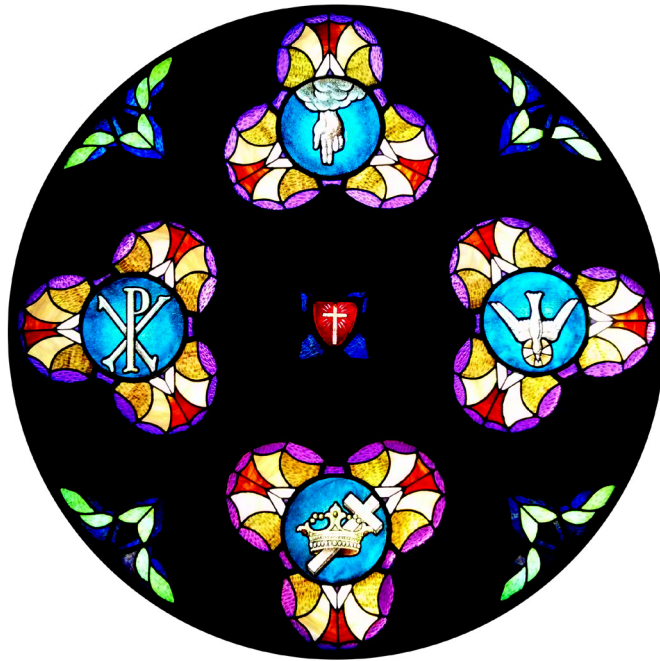


December 29, 2024
First Presbyterian Church
First Sunday after Christmas



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. Adrian Rodriguez
Lay Leader: Mathew Arredondo
Organist: Shina Heo

Responding

§ Hymn 128

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

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

Gesu Bambino
AJ Baker, tenor

arr. Mark Hayes

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night.
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced,
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

§ Doxology

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**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

Portion of A Brief Statement of
Faith from the Book of Confessions

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

§ Hymn 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World

arr. Gerre Hanck



1 The first Now-ell the an-gel did say was to cer-tain poor
 2 They look-ed up and saw a star shin-ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Beth - le -

shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keep-ing
 east be-yond them far; and to the earth it gave
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was their
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop

their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.

Refrain

Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

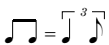
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

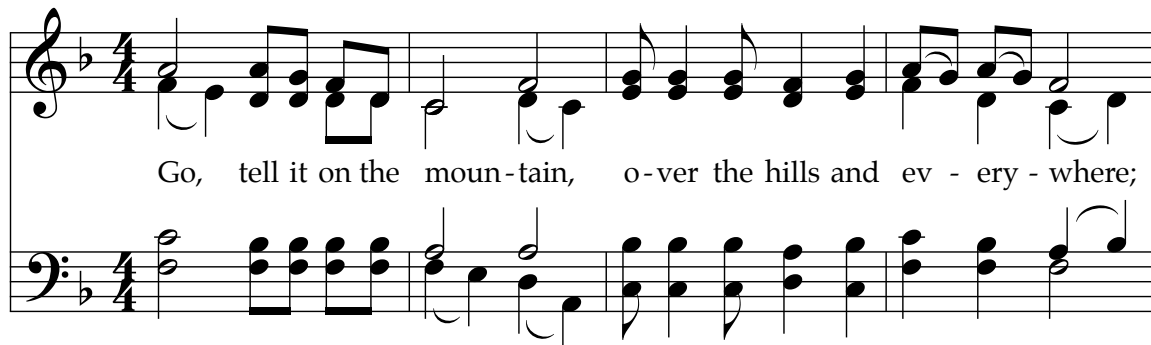
Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

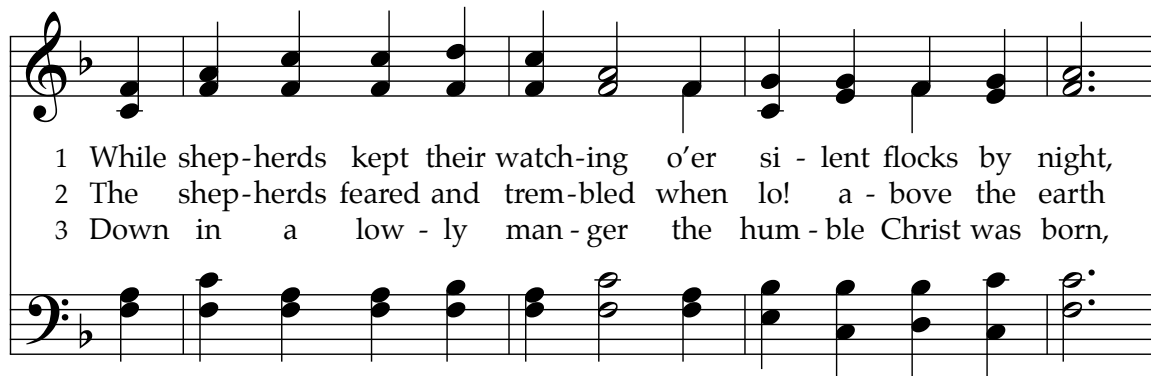
Refrain 



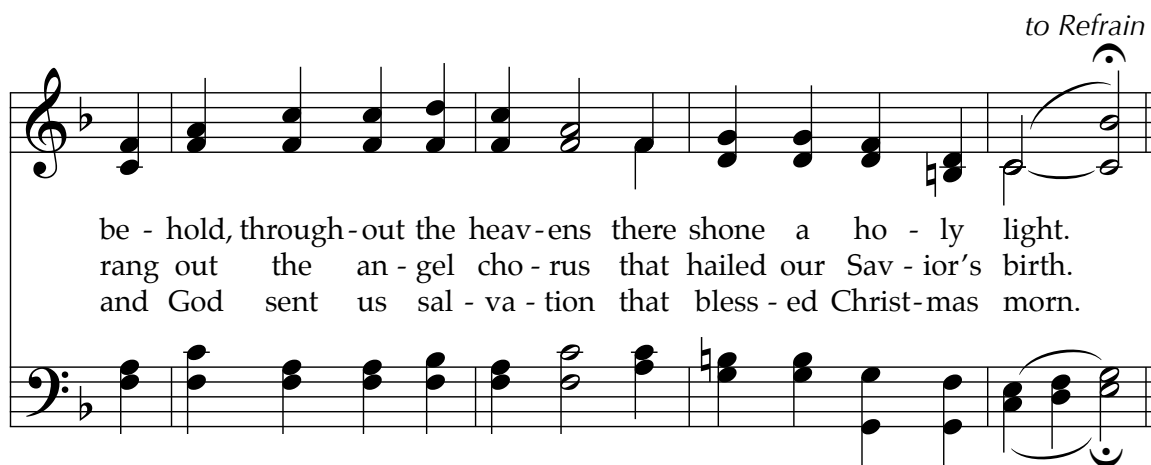
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born! Fine



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn. to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

It is with great joy and gratitude that the Rodriguez family would like to thank our FPCA family for such a wonderful ordination service on December 15. Thank you to everyone who helped with the coordination of the service and reception. Likewise, thank you to everyone who came and joined us in this special celebration. The Rodriguez family will never forget this day and the many years of co-laboring in ministry. We love and we will miss you dearly!

With Christ's love and gratitude,
The A-Rods

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>.

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) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com).

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/29

Sunday School
Worship Service

9:45 am
11:00 am

Monday 12/30

Church office closed

Tuesday 12/31

Church office closed

Wednesday 1/1

Church office closed

Thursday 1/2

Church office closed

Friday 1/3

Church office closed

Saturday 1/4

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

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