

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



First Presbyterian Church Arlington

1200 South Collins St.
Arlington, TX 76010

The people gather for the Worship of God
Sunday, December 21, 2025

Preaching: Rev. Chris Campbell
Lay Leader: Bob Watkins
Organist: Shina Heo

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington is transforming life by glorifying God,
following Jesus, and loving our neighbor.

About our service

Please silence all phones and devices.

Please fill out the Friendship Pad in your row.

Words in **bold** are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all to stand in body or spirit

Our communion grape juice is alcohol-free. Communion is open to all.

FPCA follows the liturgical calendar. Currently we are in the season of Advent. We use purple paraments as a symbol of penitence and royalty.

If you are a guest today, please stop by the narthex for information and a warm FPCA welcome!

Gathering

Prelude

Adagio in C Minor

Miriam Reveley

The Light of Christ

Prayer for Preparation

Eternal God of power and grace, who comes to us in surprising ways – in angel appearances, in defeat of enemies, and in resurrection from the dead – show us the face of Immanuel in our time. Bring us from fear to awe, we pray; in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Chris Campbell

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Hunking Family

We light the candle of Peace 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 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

§ Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people.

We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept peace within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives.

Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life.

In your compassion, turn us to your way.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. 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 35:1–10

Old Testament page 663

Children's Time

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

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter
Emily Ledesma, director

Gustav Holst

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed.
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus, Jesus Christ*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring Him a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part.
What I can I give him. Give Him my heart.
What I can I give him. Give Him my heart.*

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:10–14

New Testament page 58

Sermon

Celebration: Glory to God

Rev. Campbell

Responding

§ Hymn 110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Gilbert Martin

§ 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
Question 35

from the Heidelberg Catechism

What is the meaning of: “Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary”?
That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon himself our true manhood from the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary through the action of the Holy Spirit, so that he might also be the true seed of David, like his fellow men in all things, except sin. Amen.

§ Hymn 137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

§ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel



Prepare the Way, O Zion 106

G C D7 G C D Gsus G

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,

G C D7 G C D Gsus G

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.

Em D G A7 D A D Em A7 D

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.

Refrain G Em Dsus D Em Am D7 G

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

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C Bb F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 Bb C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C Bb C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "He came down that we may have love; he". There are triplet markings over the notes "down" and "love;" in both staves.

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "came down that we may have love; he came down that we may". There are triplet markings over the notes "down" and "love;" in both staves.

Leader: Why did he come?
have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

The third system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "have love; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more." The word "Leader:" is written above the first measure. There are triplet markings over the notes "lu - jah" in both staves.

Additional stanzas:

- ... that we may have light
- ... that we may have peace
- ... that we may have joy

This week:

Sunday, Dec. 21

- Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. in classrooms
- Worship Service - 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Monday, Dec. 22

- Blue Christmas service - noon in the Chapel

Wednesday, Dec. 24

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Thursday, Dec. 25 - Friday, Jan. 2

- Church offices closed and will reopen Monday, Jan. 5

Coming up:

Thursday, Jan. 8

- Team meetings - Fellowship Team at 4:30 p.m. in room 210; other teams at 7 p.m. online

Sunday, Jan. 11

- Children's and Youth Music Ministries resume lunch and meetings

Thursday, Jan. 22

- Session Meeting - 7 p.m. in the Parlor

Thursday, Jan. 29

- Saints Alive - 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 1

- Souper Bowl of Sharing/Caring at noon in Fellowship Hall

Community:

Dove and Mitten Trees are up!

The Dove and Mitten Trees will be up in the Narthex and Cross Hall. Each dove has a name and address of one of our

homebound members. Please bring 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. Stop by and make someone's Christmas happy and warm.



New Year, New Beginnings

The Women's Ministry Team invites you to help us launch 2026 with our "New Year, New Beginnings" event Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. We'll enjoy brunch and teaching from a treasured guest speaker, Martita Lynch, as we seek to learn about the discipline of service. Since a new year brings 365 opportunities to develop new habits, let's walk this journey together. Bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there! Registration is \$15. Go to firstprestexas.org and click on the Ministries tab.

Get 
connected:



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@fpcatx



firstprestexas.org

Prayer Ministry:

Send prayer requests to prayer@firstprestexas.org

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Charles Arnold, Carol Browning, Judy Crowell, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Jay and Susan Graham, Nancy Guerry, Elaine Keefer, Bob and Beverly Koch, Lisa Landolt, Margaret Landolt, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Audrey Paska, Richard Price, Judy Reck, Debbie Richardson, Lisa Scrabeck, Tonya Scrabeck, David Spencer, Drew Stephenson, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble

Prayers for family in the armed forces:

Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Wolfgang Van Wie, Christopher Young

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Bettye Burdett, Madge Casselman, Judy Crowell, Margaret Fite, Bobbie Fowler, Lila Glenn, Jay and Susan Graham, Teresa Hanson, Ann Scarr, Becky Speck, Leonard and Mary Jane Tibbetts, Dee Uhri, Biddie Walker

Pray 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.



Blue Christmas service - Monday, Dec. 22 at noon in the Chapel

This service will offer a space for quiet reflection and worship for those experiencing grief, loneliness, or hardship in the midst of the busy holiday season. Whatever burdens you carry, come and rest in the hope and peace found in the gift of Christ's birth.

Mark your holiday calendars

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. - Celebrate Christ's light coming into the world with worship, reflection, and community.

Give a Gift of Hope



FPCA offers Gifts of Hope, an alternative gift market, with an opportunity to honor friends and family through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. Cards are provided to share with honored recipients. Gifts of Hope will be available for purchase before and after worship the first three Sundays in December as well as online through the website. For more information, contact Bob Dawson at 214.415.5396.

Staff directory:

Main Phone number: 817.274.8286

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Chris Campbell | Lead Pastor |
| Russell Farnell | Minister of Music/Facilities Admin |
| Jim Shroyer | Parish Associate |
| Stephanie Arredondo | Interim Director of Youth Ministry |
| Kyle Terwilliger | Director of Children's Ministry |
| Shina Heo | Organist |
| Cheryl Harris | Music Ministry Associate |
| Tricia Regalado | Director of Communications |
| Jeanne Chin | Finance Manager |
| Jane Leathem | Finance Assistant |
| Bob Watkins | Prayer Ministry |
| Diane Chin | Night Monitor |
| Reggie Manuel | Custodian |

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