

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



DECEMBER 20, 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church  
December 20, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*For everyone's safety,  
please wear masks and maintain  
social distancing at all times.*

**Prelude:** My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

*- John Purifoy, 1997*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**Opening Sentences**

One: Look! the young woman is with child;

All: **she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.**

**Call to Worship**

One: My soul magnifies the Lord.

All: **My spirit rejoices in God my savior.**

One: For the Mighty One has done great things,

All: **and holy is God's name.**

**Prayer of the Day** (*unison*)

**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.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath -  
The Peace Candle or the Angels' Candle**

*Suzanne Salinas*

The Lord will give you a sign.

Look the young woman is with child.

She shall bear a son,

and the child will be named Emmanuel:

"God is with us." *Isaiah 7:14*

**Opening Hymn** (*silently singing*): "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

No. 38

**Invitation to Confession**

Let us confess our sins to the One  
whose mercy endures from generation to generation.

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

**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.**

**Kyrie Eleison** (*silently singing*)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us!  
Even if we have gone out in tears,  
God brings us home shouting for joy.  
Believe in God, Friends!  
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Gloria Patri** (*silently singing*)

**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, amen.**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Holy One,  
giver of life and light,  
as your word is read and proclaimed,  
illumine our hearts and minds,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
our lives may reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

P.P. 56-57 in the Old Testament

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

*(continued on next page)*

**First Scripture Reading:** (continued)

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Anthem:** A Christmas Medley

C.F. Schneider

**Second Scripture Reading:** Luke 1:47-55

P. 57 in the New Testament

"My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

**Sermon:** The First Christmas Carol

Rev. James DeMent

Luke 1:46-47: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior . . .

*Silence and stillness*

**Congregational Hymn** (*silently singing*): "To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

No. 19

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*unison*)

**Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son,  
whom you so freely share with us.  
Bless these gifts that we offer  
to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry  
in your coming reign of justice and peace;  
in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Doxology**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

## Service of Installation

### A LITANY OF GIFTS

One: There are varieties of gifts,  
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**All: There are different ways of serving God,  
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through each person in a unique way,  
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit  
to be used for the common good.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,  
and individually members of it.

### STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

#### THE ELDERS TO BE ORDAINED AND INSTALLED COME FORWARD

Class of 2023

John Horadam  
Lynn McAuley  
Bonnie Wilkinson

### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH BY THE CHURCH

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR RULING ELDERS

### CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATION

### PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

### WELCOME

### CHARGE TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED

### CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Closing Hymn (*silently singing*): "Away in a Manger"

No. 25

### Charge and Benediction

Postlude: Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

- Joseph Parry, 1879



### *The Lighting of The Advent Candles*



The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath is known in various traditions as the "Angel's Candle" or the "Peace Candle." Whatever designation is used for each of the candles lit in sequence during the four Sundays of Advent, the participation of the congregation together with specific members in the lighting of the candles is intended to commemorate the unfolding story of the Advent Season—the story of our redemption through God's grace made manifest in his only begotten Son, Our Lord and Savior.

Come Lord Jesus, come!

### It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

### To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

To a maid engaged to Joseph,  
The angel Gabriel came.  
"Fear not," the angel told her,  
"I come to bring good news,  
Good news I come to tell you,  
Good news, I say, good news."

### Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,  
No crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Lay down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky  
Look down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing,  
The poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus,  
No crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus,  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side  
Until morning is nigh.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

As Mary heard the angel,  
She wondered at his words.  
"Behold, I am your hand-maid,"  
She said unto her God.  
"So be it; I am ready  
According to your Word."

Be near me, Lord Jesus;  
I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever  
And love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care,  
And fit us for heaven  
To live with Thee there.

### Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Leonard "Mac" McCameron

Kathleen McCameron

Roland Merrill

Sarah Waldrop

Nathan Galvan  
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Samantha Skaggs  
(Niece of Roxanna and  
Henry Hauschild)

John & Jere Swoboda  
(Prior FPC Members)

Carol Wisdom  
(Daughter of Lea Lenz)

For caregiving concerns—please contact:  
**Jack Kleinecke (361. 212.3229); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)**

### FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service

#### **Thursday, December 24**

7:00 P.M. Candlelight Worship Service

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

*The Lord's Supper*

#### **Sunday, December 27**

10:30 AM Worship Service

*A copy of our  
"COVID-19 Pandemic  
Public Health and Safety Protocols  
for In-Person Gatherings  
at the Church"  
can be obtained as you enter the church  
or at our website:  
www.fpcofvictoria.org.*

### FPC Victoria Servant Leadership

#### Session Members

Jim DeMent, Moderator  
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session  
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds  
Dawn Neel, Christian Education  
Linda Patterson, Worship  
Marsha Ricottilli, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach  
Susan Salinas, Caregiving & Fellowship  
Jim Stokes, Finance  
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship  
Bill Wilkinson, Personnel

#### Other

Paula Leske, Presbyterian Women  
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School  
Shelley Hartman, Dawn Neel, and Helen Resendez,  
Kids for Christ, Vacation Bible School

### Bulletin Cover

Today's bulletin cover is a picture of a stained glass window in the Mary Chapel of the Anglican Cathedral of Saint Paul in Wellington, New Zealand. Standing in sharp contrast to innumerable multi-chromatic and conspicuously ornate stained glass windows in churches around the world, this representation of Mary is marked by its simplicity and its purity-- representing the young peasant girl, betrothed to Joseph, upon whom God "has looked with favor" and whose soul "magnifies the Lord" (Luke 1:46-48).

Particularly in her pregnant state, Mary is often referred to as the *Theotokos*: the God-bearer. Although we do not venerate Mary in the Reformed tradition, we respect and admire her, the woman whom God chose to give birth to God's son. We also believe that all of us, having been made in God's image, are likewise pregnant with the possibility of new life, becoming more than we are, for God is with us and God is in us. In this sense, each of us may also be called *theotokos*.

### Clergy, Music, and Administration

Rev. Jim DeMent, Interim Pastor  
Robert Wyatt, Organist/Choirmaster  
Tasha Wolf, Office Administrator

### Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
361.575.2441  
info@fpcofvictoria.org