

Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



DECEMBER 19, 2021
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude: In the Bleak Midwinter

- Gustave Holst, 1874-1934/Albin C. Whitworth, 1985

Welcome and Announcements

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

- Emily E.S Elliot/Timothy R Matthews, 2004

Call to Worship

One: God of many Names, gathered into One, in your glory come and meet us.

All: **God of Hovering Wings, Womb, and Birth of time, joyfully we sing your praises.**

One: Breath of life in every people – Sing, sing, hallelujah, hallelujah!

All: **Sing, God is love, God is love!**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Holy One, you have promised us
that the day of our salvation is near.

Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer,
so that we may stand with confidence and joy
at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen .

Lighting of the Advent Wreath -

The Peace Candle or the Angels' Candle

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 :** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

No. 31

***Invitation to Confession**

Trusting in the love and goodness of God, let us confess our sin.

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

One: We must confess

All: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: We doubt what we cannot prove; we ignore what we cannot see, and finding little room for faith, we must confess

All: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: We admit ourselves to be both infected and affected by the spirit of our times. Behind talk of peace, we hear the machinery of war. Beneath talk of equality, we detect the posturing of the powerful. Beside talk of your church being renewed, we recognize the bondage to failed patterns of the past. Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by darkness, and we must confess

All: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

One: Oh God, who will save us? Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience, not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us to smell the rat, never to recognize the dove. It is with little pride, we must confess

All: We suspect angels and disbelieve good news.

Forgive us. Give us a share of the wonder of Mary who did not suspect the angel, who took the risk of saying “yes,” and birthed Good News.

All: Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison** (*unison*)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The good news of Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey

Believe in God, Friends!

Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri** (*unison*)

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

Startle us, O God, with your truth,
and open our minds to your Spirit,
that we may be one with Christ our Lord,
and serve as faithful disciples.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5

P. 865 in the Old Testament

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

Anthem: While We Are Waiting, Come

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

P.P. 56-57 in the New 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.” 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.

And Mary said,

(Continued on next page)

“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: Hail Mary, Full of Grace

Rev. Bette Burriss

Luke 1:46-47 And Mary said, “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.”

Silence and stillness

Congregational Hymn : “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

- No. 11

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory**

***Doxology**

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

**God our Creator and Redeemer, we return to you thanks
for life and breath and for your gifts of strength and skill,
of money, wisdom, hope and love.
Use our tangible gratitude to extend our sharing of the gospel,
until you bring to completion the good work you have begun in us,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*** Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles’ Creed)** (*unison*)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

No. 37

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Benediction:** The King Shall Come

Greek Translation/William Jones, 1726-1800

Postlude: Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

Thomas Olivers, 1763



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!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
A lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

Love caused Your incarnation,
Love brought You down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
O, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging Angels singing,
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is babe of all.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

A glorious crown You give me,
A treasure safe on high,
That will not fail nor leave me
As earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
For You with praises new,
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.

Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, Heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was babe for you.

Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests

Kathryn Amsler

Gloria Aouelle

Nathan Galvan
(Son of Leila Galvan)

Kathleen McCameron

Leonard "Mac"
McCameron

Maria Pezeshki
(Mother of Leila Galvan)

Linda Patterson

Mikey Ruddock

Jere Swoboda
(Prior FPC Members)

Carol Wisdom
(Daughter of Lea Lenz)

Philip Chang

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 26

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
John Horadam, Worship
Jack Kleinecke, Clerk of Session
Billy Leske, Building & Grounds
Lynn McAuley, Caregiving & Fellowship
Dawn Neel, Christian Education
Susan Salinas, Worship
Jim Stokes, Treasurer, Finance
Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson, Asst. Clerk, Mission & Outreach

Other

Lynn McAuley, Presbyterian Women
Melissa Samudio, Presbyterian Day School
Jim Stokes, Treasurer
Henry Hauschild, Historian

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
Erica Colding, Office Administrator

Office Hours

Monday — Friday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
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