

Welcome All
to
Sunday Worship Service



The Word
Became Flesh

DECEMBER 26, 2021

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

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
December 26, 2021
First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude: Christmas Medley

- C. F. Schneider

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Call to Worship

One: Sing to the Living God! Sing a new song! Sing to God, all the earth!

All: **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

One: Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice.

All: **Let the field exult, and everything in it.**

One: Let the trees of the forest sing for joy.

All: **For a child has been born for us, the Word became flesh.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Gracious God, Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

May we receive Christ into our lives

and become, through him, your blessed children

who walk in the light you have sent into our world.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn: "Joy to the World"

No. 40

*Invitation to Confession

Trusting in God's love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

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

God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness.
We confess that we have heard your word but ignored its witness.
We confess that too often our words, our thoughts, and
our deeds turn us away from you and from each other.
As the word became flesh in Christ, we pray it may come alive in us.
We pray for your forgiving grace and peace in our lives
and in the life of the world you created.
Guide us by your Holy Spirit and link us together as a
community of faith that witnesses to the Word, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

***Kyrie Eleison**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

As children of the Holy One, God forgives us and loves us eternally.
By the power of God's Spirit, may we forgive ourselves and
forgive others as God in Christ has forgiven us.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri**

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 God, through the power of your Holy Spirit,
illumine your word that we might see Christ,
the living Word, the light of the world. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

P. 683 in the Old Testament

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

One: The Word of The Lord
All: **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem: He Came

-Joseph D Rojan / Gregg Sewill, 1978

Solo by: Robert Wyatt

Second Scripture Reading: John 1:1-14

P. 91-92 in the New Testament

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sermon: Word and Flesh

Rev. Bette Burris

John 1:12 "But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to become children of God."

Silence and stillness

***Congregational Hymn :** “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

No. 27

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory:

***Doxology**

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

God grace and truth,
we are grateful for giving hearts made joyful
in the gift of your Son.
Bless these gifts we offer to the benefit of those in need.
Bless our lives in service of sharing your love in the world;
Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith**

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.
We trust in God, who Jesus called Abba, Father.
We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”
With believers of 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.

From A Brief Statement of Faith

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn:** Go Tell It on the Mountain”

No. 29

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: He Is Born

- 18th Century French Carol

We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning’s worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (*ccli.com*). If you are worshipping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled,
To the world a stranger:
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled,
But no more a stranger:
Son of God, of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth,
Hail the King of glory!

Angels sang about His birth;
Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth,
Glory all around Him:
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain:
Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.



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

Sunday, January 2

10:30 AM Worship Service
The Lord's Supper

*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

Special Notice Concerning Office Hours

The church will close at noon on Friday December 31, 2021, and will reopen at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Unless otherwise requested, any donations to the church received or postmarked on or prior to December 31, 2021 will be recorded as a gift made in 2022.

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
361.575.2441
info@fpcofvictoria.org