

# Welcome All to Sunday Worship Service



DECEMBER 18, 2022  
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 18, 2022, 10:30 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Prelude:** He Shall Feed His Flock

- George Frideric Handel, 1741

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Moment for Mission**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

**Call to Worship**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: **Lift every valley, lift every voice.**

One: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

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

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.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath -**

**The Joy Candle or the Shepherds' Candle**

*Suzanne Salinas*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing. *Isaiah 35:1*

**\*Opening Hymn:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

No. 31

*\*Please stand in body or spirit*

**\*Invitation to Confession**

Assured that God hears our repentance,  
let us turn our minds to the truth,  
confessing our sins to God and one another.

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

**Great God,  
as we behold the birth of Jesus again,  
we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift.  
The story of Jesus’ birth points us to your glory,  
yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving.  
We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little  
that we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared.  
Tell us again that the Savior is born.  
Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope, and love  
because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

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

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

The angel tells Joseph that the child  
forming in Mary’s womb is to be named Jesus.  
“Call him Jesus,” the angel says,  
“For he will save the people from their sins.”  
From his birth through his resurrection,  
from age to age, Jesus is about salvation.

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

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

*No. 579*

**Prayer of Illumination**

As your Holy Spirit spoke to Mary,  
the mother of our Lord,  
and to Joseph, the husband of Mary,  
speak to us now through your Word  
that by hearing we too may receive faith  
and be strengthened to do your will. **Amen.**

**First Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

P.636 in the Old Testament

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

**Anthem:** An Advent Prayer

*- James Manfield, 1985*

*Solo by: Robert Wyatt*

**Second Scripture Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

P. 1 in the New Testament

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Sermon:** Joseph

Rev. Jim DeMent

Matthew 1:24: When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; . . .

*Silence and meditation*

**Congregational Hymn** “The First Nowell”

No. 56

**Profession of Faith: Confirmation**

*Confirmation of Harper Edwards*

**PRESENTATION**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**QUESTIONS OF FAITH**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - THE APOSTLES’ CREED** *(unison)*

*Continued on next page*

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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANNOINTING

WELCOME

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**Offertory:** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

- *Melchoir Teschner, 1614*

\***Doxology** (*unison*)

No. 592

\***Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts.  
 Use them, even as you use us,  
 to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ,  
 whose birth we celebrate  
 and whose Lordship we praise. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

\***Closing Hymn:** "What Child Is This"

No. 53

\***Charge**

Benediction

\***Congregational Response** (*unison*)

-*Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880/William G Tomer, 1880*

God be with you until we meet again;  
 By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
 With his sheep securely fold you;  
 God be with you 'till we meet again

'Till we meet, 'till we meet  
 'Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
 'Till we meet, till we meet  
 God be with you 'till we meet again.

**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!

Below are 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 worshiping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1

Verse 3

Verse 2

Verse 4

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!"

Refrain

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

Refrain

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

Refrain:

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



**The First Nowell**

The first Nowell the angels did say  
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
 On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

They looked up and saw a star  
 Shining in the east beyond them far,  
 And to the earth it gave great light,  
 And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

And by the light of that same star,  
 Three wise men came from country far;  
 To seek for a king was their intent,  
 And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
 O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
 And there it did both stop and stay,  
 Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
 Born is the King of Israel.

**What Child Is This**

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
 While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus

Why lies He in such mean estate  
 Where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
 The silent Word is pleading.

Chorus

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
 Come, one and all, to own Him.  
 The King of kings salvation brings;  
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Chorus

Chorus:  
 This, this is Christ, the King,  
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
 The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**Caregiving Concerns and Prayer Requests**

Gloria Aouelle	Bette Austin	Nathan Galvan (Son of Leila Galvan)	Kathleen McCameron
Maria Pezeski (Mother of Leila Galvan)	Mikey Ruddock	Carol Wisdom (Daughter of Lea Lenz)	

For caregiving concerns—please contact:  
 Lynn McAuley (979.248.6238); or Gayla Whitaker (361. 935.0950)

**FPC Opportunities for Worship & Service**

**Thursday, December 22—Monday, December 26**

12:00 PM The Church Office will be closed  
 for the Christmas Holiday

**Saturday, December 24**

7:00 P.M. Candlelight Worship Service

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

*The Lord's Supper*

**Sunday, December 25**

**NO SERVICE**

**FPC Victoria Servant Leadership**

**Session Members**

Jim DeMent, Moderator  
 Francis Byrne, Mission & Outreach  
 John Horadam, Buildings & Grounds  
 Lynn McAuley, Asst. Clerk, Caregiving & Fellowship  
 Dawn Neel, Finance, Assistant Treasurer, Worship  
 Patrick Patterson, Buildings and Grounds  
 Becky Richter, Christian Education, Personnel  
 Suzanne Salinas, Mission & Outreach, Worship  
 Gayla Whitaker, Caregiving & Fellowship  
 Bonnie Wilkinson, Clerk of Session, Personnel

**Other**

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

**Pastor's Notes**

Our Bulletin cover this morning features an oil-on-canvas painting of Joseph by the French baroque artist Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674). Entitled “The Dream of Saint Joseph,” the original hangs in the National Gallery in London. Although not mentioned by Matthew, the artist takes the liberty of painting Mary into the picture, her arms folded in a chaste and pious manner. The detail your pastor appreciates, however, is that de Champaigne paints Joseph asleep with his carpenter tools at his feet. Has the artist done this to help us recognize Joseph, or was his intent to show that busy (and preoccupied?) Joseph has fallen asleep in the middle of his work?

Regardless, we all like Joseph, don't we? Even before God told him the reason for Mary's pregnancy, Joseph was not going to “expose her to public disgrace” (Luke 1:19). He was a righteous man, and while he had resolved to divorce Mary, he was going to do so quietly. Men would do well to model Joseph's innate respect and kindness for women. Perhaps all of us might also remember that some of the things we may want to do loudly might best be done quietly.

In the Nativity Story, we recognize that Joseph was necessary to validate Jesus' ancestry by his patriarchal act of naming Jesus. Jesus' biblical lineage was assured by that act. Not to be overlooked, however, is the fact that Joseph's obedience to God was equal by every measure to Mary's. Luke tells us that when “Joseph awoke from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him ...” (Luke 1:24). Humble, kind, righteous, obedient to God— what's not to like about Joseph?

**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