

## THE NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Today is the deadline to order **poinsettias** for the chancel for Christmas Eve and Day. Use the form in the bulletin and follow the instructions on the form.

### Today's Schedule

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship
- 9:30 a.m. - Alleluia Singers (Children's S.S. Class begins at 9:55.)
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 12:15 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth Game Night and Dinner
- 5:00 p.m. - Officer and Staff Christmas Party at the Mauldins

### Monday

- 7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

### Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m. - Pastor Nominating Committee

### Wednesday

- 4:45 p.m. - Alleluia Chimes
- 5:45 p.m. - Dinner in Wilbanks Hall
- 6:15 p.m. - Youth Choir
- 6:30 p.m. - Classes and Activities
- 6:45 p.m. - Youth Bible Study and Fellowship
- 7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. - Session Meeting

### Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders meet for Wreaths Across America
- 1:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth Christmas Party

### Next Sunday—December 18

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship—Choir Leading Lessons and Carols at both services
- 9:30 a.m. - Alleluia Singers (Children's S.S. Class begins at 9:55.)
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 12:30 p.m. - Youth Council Meeting

We are still receiving **commitments for 2017**. A blank financial card and time/talent commitment folder is available in each pew in the pew rack nearest the center aisle. You may place them in the offering plate during the Reception of Tithes and Offerings.

### THOSE WHO SERVE

*Harry C. Meissner—Interim Pastor*  
*Casey McCollough—Director of Music*  
*B. J. Mauldin—Organist/Keyboard Musician*  
*Renee Stormer—Administrative Assistant*  
*Thomas G. Wilbanks—Pastor Emeritus*



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 South Belt line  
Mesquite, Texas 75149

972-285-5602    www.fpcmesquite.org

December 11, 2016

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

### WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

*We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk (\*) invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, a plus sign (+) indicates 11:00 only, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Large print hymnals or music sheets are available from an usher.*

VOLUNTARY    *O Come All Ye Faithful/Sheep May Safely Graze*    J.S. Bach

STRIKING THE HOUR OF WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT    *Prepare the Way, O Zion*    Then Swekska Psalmboken  
Octet (8:45), Chancel Choir (11:00)

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP    *Philippians 1:2, Philippians 4:4*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**And also with you.**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

\*HYMN 132    *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Three flames will flicker on the wreath today.

**Warm us with your love, O glorious Lord.**

Streams from the river of Light cover the land  
and bring the earth to life.

**Warm us with your love, O glorious Lord.**

Healing flows through the deserts of despair.

**Warm us with your love, O glorious Lord.**

Sorrow and gloom are washed away. The Son of gladness is in sight.

**Warm us with your love, O glorious Lord.**

Light is released and its power is revealed.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

*(All singing as the candles are lit:)*

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.**

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.**

**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King.**

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

ALLELUIA SINGERS + *Jesus, Friend to Me* Nancy Gifford

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

*Please find and sign the Registration of Attendance pad and pass it to others on the same pew, so that we may have a record of your attendance at this service. If you are visiting today, we hope you will provide contact information, especially your email address, so that we may share more about the program and activities of this congregation.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY #

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING ♦ *(Pew Bible, p. 663 OT)* Isaiah 35:1-10

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING ♦ *(Pew Bible, p. 11 NT)* Matthew 11:2-11

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM (8:45) *Wasn't That a Mighty Day?* Dan Schwartz

Octet

(11:00)

*The First Noel*

Chancel Choir

*Dan Forrest*

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*At the 11:00 service, when this time is concluded, children pre-school through 2nd grade are invited to join the leader to go to children's church.*

\*HYMN 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

SERMON *Imagine* Harry C. Meissner

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Creed of the United Church of Canada

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in the true human, Jesus, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and in others by his Spirit. We trust him. He calls us to be in his church: to celebrate his presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and to resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, cru-**

**cified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Tchaikovsky

\*DOXOLOGY *(Hymn 606)*

**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.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*\*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH, SILENT PRAYER, CONCLUDING COLLECT

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.**

\*HYMN 134 *Joy to the World*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE + *People Look East* French folk melody

Octet (8:45), Chancel Choir (11:00)

VOLUNTARY *Joy to the World* G.F. Handel

## OUR INVITATION

*Every service of worship invites us to consider our relationship to Jesus Christ and to his church. If you are not vitally involved in some community of faith, perhaps this congregation is the place where you can worship, find fellowship, grow, and share in our mission and witness to the world. If you would like to discuss this important matter, please indicate your interest on the registration of attendance pad or speak to the minister following the service.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

# Elder - (8:45) Joy Samuels, (11:00) Dave Edling

♦ Youth Readers - (8:45) Madison Starnes, (11:00) Madison Villafana

\*\* Deacon - (8:45) Mike Lee, (11:00) Anita Campbell

Acolyte - Julia Mauldin (11:00)

Advent Candlelighters - (8:45) Suzanne Ivy and Victoria Stormer,  
(11:00) Sheila and Taylor Hammer