

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

The **flowers in the sanctuary** are given by John and Jan Sloan to the glory of God and in honor of their son, Paul, and daughter, Beth, who both have December birthdays.

Today, December 10

- 8:45 a.m. - Early Service
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
- 5:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Program in the Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. - Soup Supper with visit from Santa and Caroling

Monday

- 7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers

Tuesday

- 7:00 p.m. - PW Night Circle Christmas Celebration at home of Gracy Thomas
- 7:30 p.m. - Committee on Committees meets in Crossroads Classroom

Wednesday—Wednesday Night Live is on hiatus until January 3, 2018

- 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. - Session Meeting

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. - Faith Builders and L.I.F.E. Youth Wreaths Across America
- 5:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth Progressive Dinner and Christmas Party

Next Sunday, December 17

- 8:45 a.m. - Morning Prayer and Choir Cantata
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer and Choir Cantata

This is the last day that you can order Christmas Poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary on December 17th and 24th. They are \$10 each. Use the form in the bulletin to order.

There are **Food Pantries** near the *north* entrance (in the Welcome Center), near the *south* door (near the choir room), and near the *west* entrance to the Wilbanks Hall building. We are grateful to those who regularly support the pantry, which helps enable the ministry of Mesquite Social Services.

An **audio copy** of most recent sermons may be found on the church website fpcmesquite.org. From the home page menu, select the *worship* tab, then *sermon audio*, and then choose the sermon you wish.

THOSE WHO SERVE

E. Jones Doughton, Pastor-elect
Harry C. Meissner, Interim Pastor
Casey McCollough, Director of Music Ministries
B.J. Mauldin, Organist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

ADVENT 2017 AT FPC

from longing to rejoicing...

Advent is the season of preparation for welcoming the coming of God into our midst in Jesus the Christ.

Advent moves us from longing for God to come help us, to rejoicing in the birth of that presence. There are four Sundays of preparation, and then...Christmas!



December 3 -The First Sunday of Advent—hope
Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Youth Choir and Bells at 11:00
Holy Communion at both services
Sermon—*Are You Expecting Anything?*

December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent—peace
Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sermon—*Light in the Darkness*
5:00 p. m. - Children's Program
6:00 p.m. - Soup Supper and a visit from Santa, Christmas Caroling

December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent—joy
Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Choir Cantata—*Sing Joy to All the World*

December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent—love
One Combined Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

December 24 - Christmas Eve—rejoicing begins
Candlelight Service at 6:00 p.m.
Sermon—*What I Learned from a Dog Named Max*

December 31 - First Sunday after Christmas Day
One Combined Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.
Ordination and/or Installation of Elders and Deacons
Sermon—*Ready to Go*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 South Belt Line • Mesquite Texas 75149

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE
MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602
www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Large print hymnals or hymn sheets are available from an usher. Let us worship God!*

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Hayes
(8:45) B.J. Mauldin, pianist
(with *Sheep May Safely Graze* by Bach)
(11:00) B.J. Mauldin, pianist; Quinda Hatfield, organist
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing Thompson
(11:00) Alleluia Chimes

INTROIT *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* Olivers
Soloist (8:45), Chancel Choir (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2, Isaiah 40:3*
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also with you.

A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

(8:45) Brian, Carol and Elizabeth Ratzer

(11:00) Dan Fricke, Hunter & McKenna White, Luke Boling

Advent light is glowing and growing. One candle's flame has now become two.

Brighten the lives of your loved ones, O star of David's line.

Long ago God promised Abraham offspring as countless as the sands.

Brighten the lives of your loved ones, O star of David's line.

John the Baptist came into the world to testify to the light and bring more people to faith.

Brighten the lives of your loved ones, O star of David's line.

A root from Jesse's stem will bring harmony to light and prosperity to bear.

Brighten the lives of your loved ones, O star of David's line.

Throughout history the rays of light have multiplied.

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.

God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling to repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless on that glorious day when Christ comes to rule the world as Prince of Peace.

Amen.

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.

ANTHEM (11:00) *Shepherds and Angels Came Too* Fletcher
Ladies' Sextet

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST READING ♦ (p. 691, OT) Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

THE SECOND READING ♦ (p. 91, NT) John 1:6-8, 19-28
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (11:00) *David's Royal City* arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Carol Stephenson
At 11:00 a.m., when this time is concluded, children in pre-school through 2nd Grade may go to Children's Church. The rest may return to sit with their family in the sanctuary.

*HYMN 96 *On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

SERMON *Light in the Darkness* 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, crucified 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!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SILENT PRAYER AND CONCLUDING PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Repeat the Sounding Joy* Scott
The Octet

*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**

*HYMN 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE (11:00) *People, Look East* French folk melody
Chancel Choir

VOLUNTARY *Sing We Now of Christmas* Hayes

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 and 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 - Ron Smith (8:45), Richard Hoffman (11:00)
♦ Youth Readers - Ashley Neece (8:45), Ethan Williams (11:00)
** Deacon - Mike Lee (8:45), Anita Campbell (11:00)
Acolyte - Julia Mauldin (11:00)