

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Today, December 17

- 8:45 a.m. - Early Service
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. - Called Session Meeting to receive a new member
- 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
- 12:15 p.m. - Faith Builders Christmas Party
- 5:00 p.m. - Choir and Handbells Party at Mauldin home

Monday

- 7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers

Wednesday

- 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve services

Next Sunday, December 24

- 10:15 a.m. - Fellowship Time & Refreshments
- 11:00 a.m. - One Combined Service
- 6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

The **Faith Builders** are having a Christmas party today at 12:15 p.m. in the Youth Hall. Each participant should bring a wrapped pair of Christmas socks and a "Christmasy" snack to share.

There will be a **Choir and Handbells** Christmas party at the Mauldin home at 5:00 p.m. today. All members of the Choir and the Bells—past, present, and future—are invited.

Butter Braids will be available for pick up on Tuesday. Please check with the church office about how and where to retrieve yours.

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 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.



Third Sunday of Advent

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 *Fum, Fum, Fum* Sanders
Jubilate Ringers

MORNING PRAYER

INTROIT *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* Olivers
Chancel Choir

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

THE PSALTER # Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Neg'eb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy.

SCRIPTURE READING # (p. 205, NT) I Thessalonians 5:16-24

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

SILENT PRAYER AND 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.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's name be praised.

*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey

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.

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.

RECOGNITION OF A NEW MEMBER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *God Rest Ye Merry/Good Christian Men, Rejoice* McKetchnie
(with *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* from *The Nutcracker* by Tchaikovsky)
Duet—B.J. Mauldin, organ; Quinda Hatfield, piano

*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**

THE CANTATA

Sing Joy to All the World

by Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Narration

A Light Shall Shine

Narration

Prepare the Way!

Narration

David's Royal City

Narration

Glory in the Highest

Narration

Joy of Every Longing Heart

Narration

Worship Christ, the Newborn King

Narration

Sing Joy to All the World!

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

VOLUNTARY *Joy to the World* McKetchnie
(with *Psalm 19* by Marcello)
Duet—B.J. Mauldin, organ, Quinda Hatfield, piano

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 - Robbie Robinson (8:45), Jan Fort (11:00)

**Deacon - Karen Hunt (8:45), Barbara Follansbee (11:00)

✿Advent Candle Lighters - (8:45) Kirk Dixon & Susan Farmer,

(11:00) Dave, Deborah, Nathan and Joshua Edling

Cantata Narrators - Sue Bohmer, Stephen Leake

Acolyte - Parker Villafana (11:00)