

## NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

The **poinsettias in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and as a gift to the church or in honor of someone. An insert in the bulletin gives the details.

### Today, December 24

10:15 a.m. - Fellowship Time  
11:00 a.m. - Combines Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Next Sunday, December 31

10:15 a.m. - Fellowship Time  
11:00 a.m. - Combined Service of Worship  
including Ordination/Installation of Church Officers

Our **holiday schedule of worship services** for this week and next week seeks to recognize the realities of family activities at this special time of the year. Today we combine our morning services into one at 11:00 a.m. and we have our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** tonight at 6:00 p.m.

The **Church will be officially closed** on the days between Christmas and New Year. Renee will be in the office irregularly on Wednesday through Friday to wrap up year-end financial matters and put together the January newsletter. If you have any end-of-year financial contributions you may check to see when Renee is in the office.

Next Sunday we also **combine** our morning services into one at 11:00 a.m. for the ordination and/or installation of Elders and Deacons, plus mark the end of our time of transition. **Dr. E. Jones Doughton** will officially become our pastor and begin his work on January 1, 2018. His first day in the office will be January 2, 2018, and he will officiate in his first services of worship as the Sunday schedule returns to normal on January 7, 2018.

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

## Tonight at 6:00 p.m.



Chancel Choir and Brass leading

Sermon  
"What I Learned  
from a Dog Named Max"

### 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

## GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

[www.fpcmesquite.org](http://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 Little Town of Bethlehem* Hayes

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

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2, Luke 1:38*  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### And also with you.

Then Mary said: Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be according to your word.

\*HYMN 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

### \*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Sheppard-Mahaffey Family

Four lights make a circle to make the wreath complete.

#### Surround us with your brightness, O Savior sent from God.

The ancient words of the prophets ring in our ears and enlighten our minds.

#### Surround us with your brightness, O Savior sent from God.

Christ's birth brings joy to people all around the world and fills the spheres above with light.

#### Surround us with your brightness, O Savior sent from God.

All beginnings and endings in life can be found in the radiant face of this baby born in Bethlehem.

#### Surround us with your brightness, O Savior sent from God.

In his light we see light, and our spirits are made whole.

#### 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 grace, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Savior. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 *Sing Noel* Lloyd Larson  
The Octet

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

THE FIRST READING # *(p. 667, OT)* Isaiah 40:1-11

THE SECOND READING # *(p. 57, NT)* Luke 1:46-56  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Sing Joy to All the World* Lloyd Larson  
Chancel Choir

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM *(See Hymnal p. 14)*  
*James Javier Bueno, son of Allison and Javier Bueno*  
*Grandson of Holly and James Smith*

### A TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*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 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SERMON *Magnificat* 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!**

CALL TO PRAYER *(Hymn 115, v 3)*

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

### 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 *Carol of the Bells Fantasy* Robert Vandall  
Four Handed Piano Duet—Jessica Herring and B.J. Mauldin

\*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 146 *Gentle Mary Laid her Child*

### \*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*RESPONSE *People, Look East* French folk melody  
Chancel Choir

VOLUNTARY *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* 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 - Duane Moon  
\*\* Deacon - Sherry Futrell  
Acolyte - Chloe Starnes