

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - LOVE

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. - Alleluia Chimes Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School
5:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Pageant followed by refreshments and a visit from Santa

Wednesday, December 15

6:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir rehearsal

Saturday, December 18

TBD - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders - Wreaths Across America

Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent - JOY

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service and Cantata
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight service

5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

Sunday, December 26 - 1st Sunday after Christmas

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (only one service)
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

Monday thru Friday, December 27 through 31

Church Office will have abbreviated hours, if you need to make a year end contribution, please call first.



We will be sending a check to Sharing Life to help them with their Christmas giving. Sharing Life plans to bless 100 families by helping with not only Christmas food and toy needs, but by providing housing and utility assistance, too! FPC Mesquite will be accepting monetary donations in the offering plate, online or via snail mail to the church. Our **deadline is Today, December 12, 2021**. You may also go to their website and purchase gifts via Amazon, if so inclined.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We want to thank the following people who provided Christmas flowers for our services

Rick and Gwenda Aber in honor of our children
Rick and Gwenda Aber in memory of our sweet niece, Ashley Nicole Aber
Rick and Gwenda Aber in memory of our beloved son, David Jason Smith
Debbie Aynes in memory of James Aynes
Debbie Aynes in memory of Margaret Simpson
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our parents, Debbie Aynes, DiAnna Greer, and Clarence and Brenda Greer
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our father, James Aynes
Lee Barnhart in memory of my beloved wife, Sara Barnhart
Anita Campbell in memory of my parents, Virginia and Bill Campbell
Thomas Crawford in memory of my parents, Avil and May Crawford
Thomas Crawford in memory of my paternal grandmother, Ida Topple Crawford
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in loving memory R.J. Farmer, D. D. S., Karen Dixon and our parents
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in memory of Nickie Wilbanks and Marjorie Akin
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of our children and grandchildren
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Tom Wilbanks
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Jones and Mary Lee Doughton and family
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and FPC staff
Kirk Dixon in honor of my lovely wife, Susan.
Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in honor of Dallas and Lynda Ward, Mary St. Claire Doughton, and Bennett Doughton
Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton
Roger Foltz in honor of Scott and Amanda Foltz
Roger Foltz in memory of Mary Evelyn Fladness
Debra Ford in memory of my cousin, Chanele Brunet
Debra Ford in memory of all my family members who died of Covid
Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam Fort. He left us too soon.
(Continued)

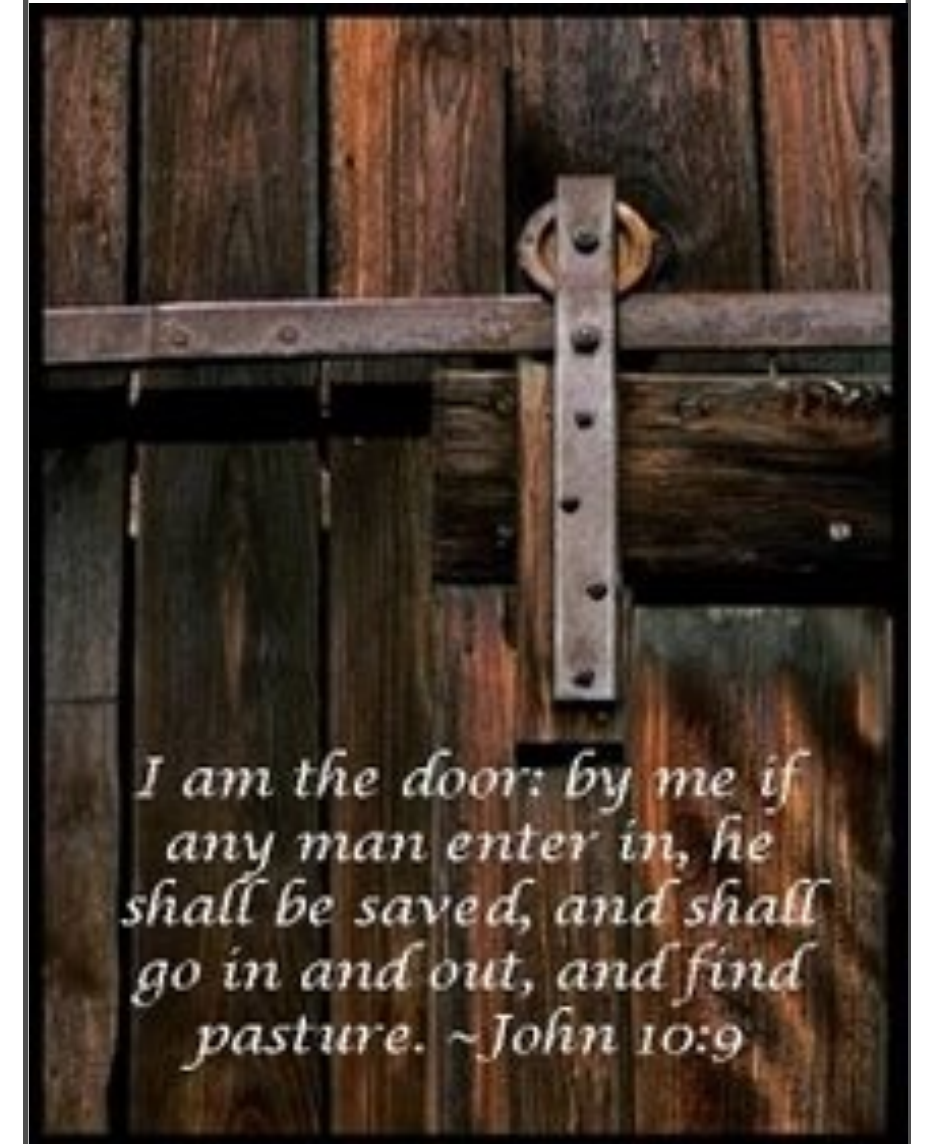
Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke
Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, Hazel Fates and Lisa Fricke
Meg GarverHamilton in honor of The Mission Committee
Meg GarverHamilton in honor of The Session
Meg GarverHamilton in honor of The Presbyterian Women
Brenda and Clarence Greer as a gift to the church
Brandon and Adrienne Hall in memory of Sally Sparkman
Brandon and Adrienne Hall in memory of Gary Huchison
Mike Hill in memory of Carolyn Hill
Mike Hill in memory of Billie Hill
David Howard in memory of Joshua Howard
David Howard in memory of Dawna Howard
Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Beth and Henry Skidmore and Alaine and Don Smith
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of Jones Doughton and Family
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nicki Wilbanks
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of Renee Stormer
Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of the Mesquite Police Department and the FPC Safety Team
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our parents and families, with love
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our church staff – thank you for all you do!
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Pastor Emeritus Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of Nickie Wilbanks for their many years of service to our church
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our grandparents – with love and treasured memories
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith
Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of our mother, Estalene Marshall
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert Luce and Edwin and Agnes Carr
Sheryl Miller in honor of my siblings, Karen and Randy Harris, David Williams, and Mark and Barbara Williams
Sheryl Miller in memory of our parents, Ben and Mary Williams
Don Neece in memory of Sue Neece
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby and Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Robinson
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mrs. Betty Scott and Kathy Scott Krajca
Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory Carolyn Hill and Dan Fricke
Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory of Jeanette Schwartz and Robert Schwartz
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband of 66 years, Rev. James “Jim” R. Sheppard, Jr.
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of our first-born son, Mark Stephen Sheppard and his wife Mary Katherine.
Hope L. Sheppard with pride and joy for my family. Psalm 133:1
Hope L. Sheppard with pride and love for my first great-granddaughter, Zoey Norma Sheppard, born January 31, 2021.
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of the future marriage of Hope Elizabeth Sheppard-Mahaffey and Theodore “Teddy” Cooper on April 30, 2022, in Tulsa, Oklahoma
Hope L. Sheppard with love and prayers for my dear friend and teacher, Cora Dugan
Hope L. Sheppard with loving appreciation to my hairstylist, Rikki Ames, who gifted me with a 92-pound King German Shepherd, Willow Ruby
Hope L. Sheppard with love and care for my precious dear friend, McKenna White
Ann Smith in honor of Brianne and Jeremy, and Megan and Justin
Ann Smith in honor of Smith & Dylan
Ann Smith in memory of Pat Smith
Ann Smith in memory of Nicholas Seth
Ron Smith in honor of my dad, Roland Smith
Ron Smith in memory of my mom, Neta Smith
Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother, Lillie Larsen Snyder
David and Renee Stormer in memory of Renee's mom, Glenda Duncan
George Venner in memory of Pat Venner
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Wards
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Carlsons
Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty
Beverlee Witty in memory of Georgia Baker
Beverlee Witty in memory of Bruce Baker

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries
Ryoji Shimpō, Organist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 12, 2021



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*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

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www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Chip Davis

INTROIT *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Charles P. Price
(11:00) Chancel Choir (vs 1)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2; Isaiah 40:3;*
Jeremiah 33:14a,15

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

And also to you.

A voice cries: In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise: I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and He shall execute justice and righteousness.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

(8:45) The Stormer Family and Ivy Family,
(11:00) Eric and Lori Schwartz

*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not searched for signs of Your love in the world, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires so, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (Hymn 581)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A—men. A—men.

BAPTISM (11:00) Elizabeth Claire Stegman

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

DECLARATION OF THE PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

DECLARATION OF THE CHURCH'S RESPONSIBILITY

Question: Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Elizabeth Claire by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow Christ?

Response: **We do.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

Little child, for you Jesus Christ came into the world; for you He did battle, for you He suffered. For you He went through the agony of Gethsemane and darkness of Calvary; for you He cried: 'It is fulfilled.' For you He triumphed over death; and you, little child, know nothing about this.

But this is the statement of the Apostle confirmed:

'We love God, because God first loved us.' Amen.

(From the Reformed Church of France)

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

THE BAPTISM

WELCOME BY CONGREGATION

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the Gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM *Humble Little Manger* arr. J.M. Stevens
(11:00) Chancel Choir

Humble little manger. Humble little manger.

Hmm, hmm. Was He born in a palace? No, no.

In a royal bed? Not my Lord. Did He have a fine pillow?

No, no. Not a pillow to lay His head.

Was He born in a temple? No, no. Or at the feet of kings?

Not my Lord. Did He wear a golden ring?

No, no. Not a golden ring for the King.

Signs and prophets foretold His birth,

(Continued)

Son of God come down to earth.

No royal bed, no golden ring. Just a humble manger for the King.

Humble little manger, oh, oh. Humble little manger, oh, oh.

When the shepherds came to see Him, bow down.

They were bending low, humble, to worship the Messiah, Jesus.

Gave praises to the King. Signs and prophets foretold His birth,

Son of God come down to earth. No royal bed, no golden ring.

Just a humble for the King.

Humble little manger. In a humble little manger,

'twas born the King of kings!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Almighty and All Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time of Advent, open our hearts that we may find Your love as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 1:10-13*

He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 10:7-10*

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by Me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Doughton
Children are asked to remain seated at this time.

*HYMN 118 *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

SERMON *I Am the Door of the Sheep* Rev. Doughton

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (8:45) Apostles' Creed
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 on 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*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.**

*HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* John W Work II
(11:00) Chancel Choir (vs.1)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds keep their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, through-out the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*VOLUNTARY *Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child* arr. Gary Davidson

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Paula Kusewitt (8:45); Phil Johnson (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers - Robbie Lee,
Michael Lee and Aaron Sheppard-Mahaffey