

## NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

### 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.

### Sunday, Jan 2 - Ordain and Install new church officers

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

### Tuesday, Jan 4

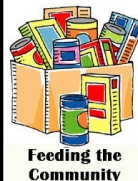
9:30 a.m. - Presbyterian Women Morning Circle  
7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Night Circle

### Wednesday, Jan 5

6:30 p.m. - Epiphany Service  
7:00 p.m. - Board of Deacons

### Sunday, Jan 9

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



**THE CHALLENGE**

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we go forward in 2021. Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Our total for December is currently **135 items**. Thank you to all for your continued support.

### 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 Leila Doughton, Jack MacMillan, 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 Gates 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 Shimpo, Organist  
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant  
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

# GUIDE TO WORSHIP

DECEMBER 19, 2021

I AM  
T Bread of Life  
L Light of the World  
H Door  
H Good Shepherd  
E Resurrection & the Life  
E Way, the Truth, & the Life  
E True Vine

*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. Let us worship God!*

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

[www.fpcmesquite.org](http://www.fpcmesquite.org)

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella* arr. Phil Della Penna

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 JOY

(8:45) Beverlee Witty and Ronald Smith,  
(11:00) Bryan and Kim Sanders

\*HYMN 104 (vs. 1) *Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

### \*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.**

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

\*HYMN 104 (vs. 2) *Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love,  
all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

### 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 joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 1:14-18*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to Him and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because He was before me.'") From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made Him known.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 11:25*

Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live...."

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

SERMON *I Am the Resurrection and the Life* Rev. Doughton

\*HYMN 104 (vs. 3) *Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and good-will,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation you glory shall display.

### 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 king-  
dom 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.**

CANTATA *Sing Joy to All the World!* Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

*David's Royal City*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter and His cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth,  
our Savior holy.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,  
go by,  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever lasting Light;

(continues)

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.  
How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive Him still,  
the dear, the dear Christ enters in.

#### *Joy of Every Longing Heart*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, before the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him, angel hosts His praises sing.  
Evermore! Evermore!

Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring;  
joy of ev'ry longing heart. Hymn and chant and high thanks giving,  
evermore and evermore!

#### *Worship Christ, the Newborn King*

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary, outcast and stranger, Lord of all.  
Child who in her its all our transgressions, all our demerits on Him fall.  
Let us worship and adore Him. Christ is born, hear the angels sing!

Join with shepherds who kneel before Him;  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder; angels behold Him on His throne.  
Worthy of all our praises; happy forever are His own.

Let us worship and adore Him. Christ is born, hear the angels sing!

Join with shepherds who kneel before Him, before Him;  
worship Christ, the newborn King.

This, this is Christ the King, who shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.  
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE *Humble Little Manger* arr. J.M. Stevens

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,

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 manger for the King.

Humble little manger. In a humble little manger,  
'twas born the King of kings!

### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Robbie Robinson (8:45); Eric Schwartz (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers - Gina Villafana,

Madison Villafana, Brittany Hammer and Taylor Hammer