

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - *Love*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
(Cantata & Jubilate Ringers)
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
TBA - L.I.F.E. Youth go Ice Skating

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent - *Joy*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service - **Christ Candle**

Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christ's Birth

Wednesday through Friday, December 27 - 29

Office hours will be abbreviated, if you need to make an end of year contribution, please make an appointment.

Sunday, December 31

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Ordination and Installation Service)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2023

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

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in honor of Jesus
Debbie and Adeline Aynes in memory of Papa James
Mackenzie Aynes in memory of Papa James Aynes
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our mothers – Debbie Aynes and DiAnna Greer and Bonus Mom Brenda Greer
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our grandparents, James and Clara Aynes, Hose and Margaret Simpson, Clarence and Mary Greer, and Ernie and Jess Ann Tolle
John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Renee Stormer for all that she does
Mary E Boyce in memory of Tom Lehman Barnard
Mary E Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard
John and Lynda Brown in memory of Kelly Brown Jennings
Edie Brunson in honor and admiration of Hope Sheppard and fond memories of Jim Sheppard
Ross and Sharon Condarco in memory of Sharon's son, Christopher Petton
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 in honor of my lovely wife, Susan
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
Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of Lynda and Dallas Ward, and Lelia Doughton.
Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of our children, Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton
Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack Mac-Millan
Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott and Amanda Foltz
Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Emily and Thomas Shoots
Roger Foltz in honor of my children, David and Wendy Foltz
Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam D. Fort.
Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke and Lisa Fricke
Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, and Hazel Gates
Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo
Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich
Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nicki Wilbanks
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of the Doughton Family
Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard

Patricia Kim in memory of Stephen K. Kim
Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jerry Woodard, Paula's daddy – with love and precious memories
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jim Kusewitt, John's dad – with our love
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our Grandparents – with our love
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our mothers – you are a gift from God.
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of his wife, Nickie – Thank you for your many years of faithful, selfless service.
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimpo and the Music Department
Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Safety Team – thank you for your dedication to us!
Ann Kyle as a gift to the church
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner
Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Robbie's mom, Estalene Marshall
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Peg Luce
Michael McGee in memory of Aileen and James Tucker
Sheryl Miller in honor of my grandson, Truett
Sheryl Miller in memory of my parents, Ben and Mary Williams
Brian Neece in honor of my dad, Don Neece
Brian Neece in memory of my mom, Sue Neece
Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Jordan Hutchinson
William and Gail Richardson as a gift to the Church
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson
Bob and Maurine Robinson in honor of Robbie, Janice and Ben Robinson
Roger Samuels in loving memory of Joy
John and Susan Scholl in memory of our parents
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband and dearest friend for 70 years, the Rev. James "Jim" R. Sheppard, Jr.
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of the Faith and Life Sunday School Class
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of my church family, for your outreach, prayers and cards
Hope L. Sheppard in memory of a beautiful lady, Sheila Bauer
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of My family, Psalm 133:1
Ann Smith in honor of my children, Brianne and Jeremy Davis, and Megan and Justin Rains
Ann Smith in honor of my grandchildren, Smith & Dylan Rains
Ann Smith in honor of those who teach here at FPC
Ann Smith in memory of Pat Smith
Ann Smith in memory of Nick Seth
Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother and father
Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson, Ray and Kathryn Stephenson
George Venner in memory of Pat Venner
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Dallas' parents, the Wards
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Lynda's parents, the Carlsons
Nelda Williams in honor of Carol Stephenson
Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty
Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ryoji Shimpo, Organist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 17, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

I came across this wall mosaic on the road down from the Mount of Olives in May of 2022. We were walking to the Garden of Gethsemane. This reminds me of the care Jesus has for the world. For "the rest of the story," stay tuned in worship this Sunday.



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

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MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

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www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child* arr. M.L. Thompson
Jubilate Ringers

INTROIT 110 (vs1) *Love Has Come* arr. Eric T. Myers

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*

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.

*HYMN 133 (vs 1) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him,
born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

(8:45) Celisa and Rodney Vansickle

(11:00) Amanda, Ronnie, MacKenzie, and Adeline Aynes

HYMN 85 (vs 3) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.**

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

*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, 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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Malachi 3:16-18*

Then those who revered the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord took note and listened, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who revered the Lord and thought on His name. They shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, My special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as parents spare their children who serve them. Then once more you shall see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Mark 1:32-34*

That evening, at sunset, they brought to Him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Christmas Community* Rev. Doughton

CANTATA *Noel! Born Is the King!* Dennis & Nan Allen
Chancel Choir
The First Noel

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/He Has Come for Us

What Child Is This (Underscore)

Carol Medley

Noel

O Holy Night!

Finale: The First Noel

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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Away in a Manger* arr. M.L. Thompson
Jubilate Ringers

*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 133 (vs 3-4) *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing,
all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

Refrain: **O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. John W Work III

**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, throughout 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!**

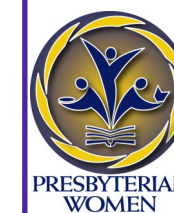
POSTLUDE *The First Noel* arr. Steve Calderone

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Robbie Robinson (8:45); Sheryl Miller (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Gina Villafana, Alberto Villafana,
and David Howard (8:45);

Gina Villafana, Alberto Villafana,
David Howard, and Elna Singleton(11:00)



The Presbyterian Women are collecting gift cards for women who are escaping "Trafficking." An organization, *New Friends, New Life*, assist them with counseling and financial help. Thru them the gift cards can be distributed. Please purchase them redeemable to Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon and/or Dollar Store.

There will be a basket for them in the Welcome Center. The amount should not exceed \$25. Please write the amount on the back of the card.

The last day to contribution will be Sunday, January 14, 2024.