

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 8 - 2nd Sunday of Advent "Peace"

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
5:00 p.m. - Children's Pageant
6:00 p.m. - Soup with Santa and cookies too.



Monday, December 9

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Night Circle Xmas Party @ Susan Farmer's

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14

Time TBA - Wreaths Across America

Sunday, December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent "Love"

Chancel Choir will present to God their Christmas Cantata at both services

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

Monday, December 16

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent "Joy"

Jubilate Ringers will present to God their musical praise at both services

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
T/B/A - L.I.F.E. Youth Progressive Dinner

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve "Christ"

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29 - One worship service will be offered

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School is optional
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service w/Church Officer Installation and Ordination

Sunday, January 5

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at both worship services

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

Tuesday, January 7

9:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Women Morning Circle
7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Evening Circle

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. - Service of Healing and Wholeness
7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacon's Meeting
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 12

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

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee (*2nd Tuesday)

Wednesday, January 15

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner
6:30 p.m. - Classes
7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal



Sisters in Christ

The Women's Retreat Committee will be taking registration for the Women's Retreat again on Sunday, December 8, 2024 after both services. Our Women's Retreat will be next year on March 28-30, 2025, Friday thru Sunday at the Prothro Center at Lake Texoma and our speaker will be Rev. Judy Fletcher. Please register as soon as you can so we'll have a good headcount and can plan accordingly. Our committee has been busy planning a lot of exciting activities and we're very excited about it.

Hope to see you there! ~ Gracy Thomas and Committee

The Presbyterian Women, along with the Ladies Who Love the Lord, will be participating in Sharing Life's "Warm Campaign" through **January 17th**. We will be collecting **coats, hats, scarves, gloves, long underwear, and blankets**. These can be gently used. If you would like to donate to our mission, you may place your items in the basket in the front hall. Many people need assistance at this time of year. We can make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for your involvement in our community. ~ Susan Farmer, Moderator

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist & Pianist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 8, 2024

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

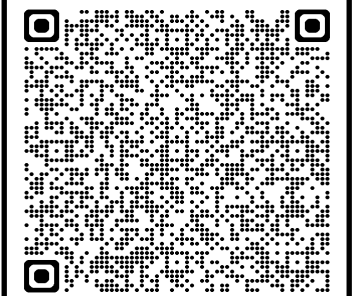
About the Cover Picture

The December First cover gave us a view of the altar from a distance. This Sunday we have a closer view of the altar in the Church of the Nativity. We are getting closer to Christmas.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Have you ever thought of giving online? If you would like to give online you may scan the QR Code, this will take you to the giving button on our website.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org



THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we 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. In December we have collected **34 items**. **Thank You!**

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Chip Davis

INTROIT 106 (vs.2) *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Hope Publishing
He brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

(8:45) Lynda Brown and Beverlee Witty
(11:00) David and Joan Hammons

*HYMN 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*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

ANTHEM (8:45) *Advent Prayer* William Sisson
Chancel Choir

Chorus: How will we know Him, Lord?
How will we know, how will we know?
We will seek in the night, We will watch for a sign,
But how will we know Him, Lord?
Seek in the radiance of hope and of peace,
Seek in the bright flame of joy,
Seek in the light of goodness and light,
But Seek Him first in your heart. [*Chorus*]
(continued)

Know Him in the radiance of Hope and of peace,
Know Him in the bright flame of joy.
Know Him in the light and the goodness of love,
But know Him first in your heart. [*Chorus*]
Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Joy of every longing heart.
O Come to my heart, Lord Jesus:
There's room in my heart for Thee.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Isaiah 42:1-4*

“Here is My servant, Whom I uphold, My chosen one in Whom I delight; I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness He will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth. In His teaching the islands will put their hope.”

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Luke 1:46-55*

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is His name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with His arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and His descendants forever, just as He promised our ancestors.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11:00)

The Children and Youth are asked to come forward at this time.

*HYMN 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

SERMON *Song of Mary* Rev. Doughton

*HYMN 140 *Once in David's Royal City*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Good King Wenceslas* arr. Noreen Liehard
Ryoji Shimpo, pianist

*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 145 (vs.1) *What Child Is This* English Ballad

What Child is this, Who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

POSTLUDE *Greensleeves* arr. Chip Davis

Following the Response we will have our Postlude. Please be seated.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Sue Bohmer (8:45); Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - John Futrell, Campbell Futrell, and Susan Farmer (8:45)
John Futrell, Campbell Futrell, Linda Fricke,
and Elna Singleton (11:00)

Budget and Stewardship

Our 2024 budget was \$341,750

Your contributions to the church are so important. Please don't forget your pledge.

NOVEMBER 2024

	BUDGET Y-T-D	ACTUAL Y-T-D
Income	313,271.00	326,494.49
Expenses	313,271.00	307,103.13

As of November 30, 2024, our income exceed our expenses by \$19,391.36 Also remember that your pledge to the church includes your time and talents, as well as, your treasures.