

## NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

### Sunday, December 21 - 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

### Wednesday, December 24

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

### Thursday, December 25

**Christmas Day - Office is Closed**

### Friday, December 26

Boxing Day - Office is Closed

### Sunday, December 28 - Guest Preacher, Walter Teter

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (One Service)

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Youth Gathering at the Church

### Monday, December 29 through Wednesday, December 31

**Rev. Doughton and Family will be away visiting his mother in Tennessee**

*The Church will be on abbreviated hours in preparation for 2026. Please call for an appointment if you would like to give an end of the year contribution.*

### Thursday, January 1, 2026

*The Church office will be closed.*

### Sunday, January 4 - Incoming Church Officers will be Ordained and Installed at 10:00 a.m.

***The Lord's Supper will be observed at both Worship Services***

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (One Service)

4:00 p.m. - Dismantle and store the Decorations

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2025

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

Debbie Aynes in memory of Papa James Aynes

Debbie Aynes in memory of Ronnie Simpson

Debbie Aynes in memory of Margaret Simpson

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our beautiful daughters, Kenzie and Adeline

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of Clarence and Mary Greer, Ernie and Jess

Ann Tolle, Jose and Margaret Simpson, and James and Clara Aynes

Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of Debbie Aynes, DiAnna Greer, Clarence and

Brenda Greer

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Jones Doughton

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Renee Stormer

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Edie Brunson

John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Ryoji Shimpō

Mary E Boyce in memory of Tom L. Barnard

Mary E Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard

John and Lynda Brown in memory of our daughter, Kelly Brown Jennings

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 loving 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, Mary Lee Doughton and family

Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and our FPC staff

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of Dallas and Lynda Ward and Lelia Doughton

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack MacMillan

Roger Foltz in honor of my children Scott, Emily, and David

Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam D. Fort

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 memory of David and Karen

Meg GarverHamilton in memory of my parents and grandparents

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of our parents, Pat Jensen and Clifford Graham

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of our parents, Carmen and Frank Bernal

Brenda and Clarence Greer in memory of Mary and Clarence Greer, Jerry Evans and his mom, Lillian Evans

Sheila Hammer in memory of my mother, Christy Portillo

Sheila Hammer in memory of my father, Roger Rich

Joan and David Hammons in memory of our parents O.K. and Edith Stovall, and Don and Dot Hammons

Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Cindy's parents, Beth and Henry Skidmore

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the Doughton Family

Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nickie Wilbanks

Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of David Howard

Patricia Kim in memory of my husband Stephen, B-I-L Harold Burton, and nephews, Burt and Curtis Burton

Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye

John and Paula Kusewitt in loving memory of our dads, Jerry Woodard and James Kusewitt

John and Paula Kusewitt in loving memory of all our precious grandparents

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our families with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Tom and Nickie Wilbanks – thank you for your many years of selfless dedication and love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Mesquite Safety Team and all first responders with our gratitude for your service

Ann Kyle as a gift to the church

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory Randy Leake

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory Morris Tanner

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake

Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner

Brian Neece in honor of Don Neece

Brian Neece in memory of Sue Neece

Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Jordan Hutchinson

Gail and William Richardson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Richardson

Gail and William Richardson in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Sexton

Maurine and Bob Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby

Maurine and Bob Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson

Lori and Eric Schwartz in honor of our pastors, Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton and Dr. Tom Wilbanks

Lori and Eric Schwartz in memory of our parents, Dan Fricke, Robert and Shirley Schwartz and in honor of Linda Fricke

Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey in honor of our first grand-daughter, the awesome Mary Ruth Cooper

Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey in loving memory of Martha's parents, Jim and Hope Sheppard

Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey in loving memory of Ken's parents, Bill and Jean Mahaffey

Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey giving thanks for my family, Ken, Aaron, Rebecca, and Hope and Teddy

Ann Smith in memory of loved ones no longer with us

Ann Smith in honor of my children and grandchildren

Ann Smith in honor Rev. Doughton and his family

Ann Smith in honor of Renee Stormer and her devotion to our church

Ann Smith in honor of Ryoji Shimpō for providing beautiful music each week

Ron Smith in honor of my son, Mitch Smith

Ron Smith in memory of my mother, Neta Smith

Paul Snyder in memory of my mother, Lillie Snyder

Carol Stephenson in honor of the members of the Christian Fellowship Class

Scott Tudor and Terry White in memory of Ted and Beverly Tudor, Sr., Ted Tudor, Jr., and Howard White

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of Erin VanSickle

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of Hilary VanSickle

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of Grace VanSickle

George Venner in loving memory of Pat Venner

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Ward Family

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of the Carlson Family

Diane Weatherford in honor of Amy Surls

Diane Weatherford in memory of Scott, Muriel, and Scott Weatherford, Jr.

Beverlee Witty in honor of my husband, Tom Heines

Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Hannah Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Tom Wilbanks

Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty

Beverlee Witty in memory of David Howard

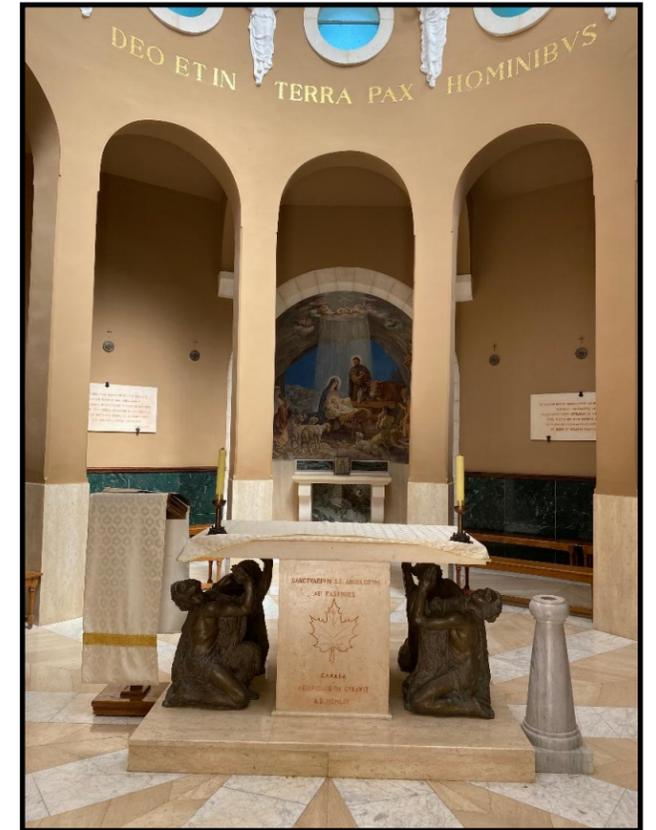
## GUIDE TO WORSHIP

### December 21, 2025

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

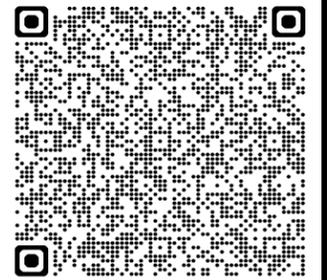
### About the Cover Picture

Here, we are inside at the Shepherd's Field Chapel. We see the joy of the Holy Family. Ponder this joy as the Candle of Joy is lit. Ponder the joy found in discovering Christ again.



### 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

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# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

## STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

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

INTROIT 133 (v.1) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade

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

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 - JOY

(8:45) Terri White and Scott Tudor

(11:00) Lorena, Quincy, and Bella Robinson

\*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, 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 (11:00) *Rejoice, Rejoice, Ye People* arr. Joseph M Martin  
Chancel Choir

[Refrain] Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion;  
The glory of Heaven is shining today. Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion,  
For this is the dawning, the dawning of grace.  
Oh, rejoice with singing, rejoice with dancing;  
With trumpets and timbrels break forth now in praise.  
Rejoice, rejoice, ye people of Zion; The glory of heaven is shining today.  
(continued)

Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert a way for the King.  
Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Let all of creation lift voices and sing.

Oh, rejoice, ye mountains. Rejoice, ye valleys,  
Ye rivers, and oceans, ye canyons and caves.  
Prepare, prepare the way of the Lord.  
Make straight in the desert a way for the King.

For now the shadows are passing;  
The day has begun. Alleluia!  
The time for glorious music and singing has come.  
For the power of all sin will be broken;  
Christ will come and banish the night,  
For the mouth of Jehovah has spoken. Alleluia!  
See how darkness surrenders to glorious Light! [Refrain]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Thy Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. As Your Word is read and preached may it guide us in the right path, may it direct our steps, and may it lead us to our hearts true desire in Jesus Name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Malachi 2:4-5*

Know, then, that I have sent this command to you, that My covenant with Levi may hold, says the Lord of hosts. My covenant with him was a covenant of life and well-being, which I gave him; this called for reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe of My name.

SECOND 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.

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 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

SERMON *Witness to the Light* Rev. Doughton

\*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

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 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. Preston Keys  
Ryoji Shimpō, 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 134 *Joy to the World*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE 133 (v.3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade  
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Chip Davis

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**Elders #-** Dr. Carol Stephenson (8:45); Meg GarverHamilton (11:00)  
**Deacon/Ushers †** - John Futrell, Campbell Futrell,  
and Larry Thomas(8:45);  
John Futrell, Campbell Futrell,  
Paul Luce, and Elna Singleton (11:00)

## FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary were given to the glory of God by Liz Ramsey, in loving memory of her husband, Tim Ramsey.