

## NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

### 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 Tuesday, December 30

**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

# GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 24, 2025

6:00 p.m.

## About the Cover Picture

The Star on the bulletin cover is from The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. It marks the traditional site where Jesus was born. One can see that the Star is in light and shadow. Jesus brings us out of the shadows into the light. As we ponder the birth of Christ, may we remember His lowly birth. May we remember that He came to Earth to be with us, to be among us, and to show us the way to live. May this star lead us to humility, mystery, and worship.



***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. Large print hymnals or hymn sheets are available from an usher. Let us worship God!***

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

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

## THOSE WHO SERVE

E. Jones Doughton, Pastor

Ryoji Shimpō, Director of Music/Organist/Pianist

Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant

Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

### STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

VOLUNTARY *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel-Plainsong*  
String Quartet arr. Neuen-Rabinowitz

INTROIT 133 (vs 1 & 3) *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade  
Chancel Choir

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!  
(Refrain) O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord.  
Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizen of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*

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

#### And also with you.

I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

6:00 p.m. - Cindy and Gerald Jenkins

*Rev Doughton:* The Christ candle is lit. We have watched; we have waited in hope, for peace, for love, and for joy. Now our redemption draws near!

*Congregation:* **Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!**

\*CAROL #134 *Joy to the World*

### WELCOME #

ANTHEM *Still He Comes* Zollene Reissner  
Chancel Choir

Love's great promise, born long ago in a manger,  
Not with the sounds of the cymbal and drum,  
But the silence of stars.

Long awaited one, unknown and yet not a stranger,  
Came as a humble and holy child,  
Yet a great and glorious king!

For such a gift sing "Alleluia,"  
Hope born within a lowly stall,  
The incarnate love of God was sent for all.

Still He comes, He comes to us,  
But not with sound of thunder,  
But as the light of the morning comes  
When a new day is born.

Grace He brings to us,  
Life and love neverending,  
Rest for the spirit and peace for the heart,  
And a quiet, gentle joy.

For such a gift sing "Alleluia,"  
Hope born within a lowly stall,  
The incarnate love of God was meant for all.

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:8-14*

CAROL #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *Luke 2:15-20*

CAROL #124 *Still, Still, Still*

SCRIPTURE LESSON *John 1:1-5, 10-13*

CAROL #145 *What Child Is This*

ANTHEM *Two Burgundian Carol Tunes* arr. Taranto  
String Quartet Members:  
Eileen MacNaughton, violin, Emma Beaty, violin,  
Olivia Beaty, viola, and Stella Beaty, cello

SERMON *The Light of the World*  
Reverend Dr. E. Jones Doughton

CAROL #115 *Away in a Manger*

### A PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

#### 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.**

ANTHEM *He Is Born* arr. John F. Wilson  
Chancel Choir

[Refrain] He is born, the holy Child,  
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily,  
He is born, the holy Child.  
Sing we now of the Savior mild.  
Thru the ages of the past,  
Prophets have foretold His coming,  
Thru the ages of the past,  
Now the time has come at last! [Refrain]  
Jesus, Lord of all the earth,  
Coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the earth,  
Coming down in lowly birth! [Refrain]

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*O Come, All Ye Faithful-Anonymous* arr. Frost  
String Quartet

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great God of power, we praise You for Jesus Christ, Who came to save us from our sins. We thank You for the hope of the prophets, the song of the angels, and the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We thank You that in Jesus You became flesh and dwelt among us, sharing human hurts and pleasures. Glory to You for Your grace-filled love. Glory to You, eternal God; through Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, and King of kings, now and forever. **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

CAROL *Silent Night*  
Stephen Leake, guitarist

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."  
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

**Please stand\* for the last verse.**

Silent night! Holy night!  
Wondrous Star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

POSTLUDE *Silent Night* arr. Preston Keys

The Christmas Eve service will conclude with the lighting of candles and the singing of "Silent Night." After the candles are extinguished, there will be low lighting. The choir will continue to sing the first verse of "Silent Night" as the ushers direct worshippers from the congregation. All are asked to then leave in a quiet and reverent way. After this Postlude concludes all lights will be lit, you may return to gather your poinsettias and take them home. If pictures are not taken before the service, you may take your picture by the tree at this time.

#### ASSISTING IN WORSHIP Deacon/Ushers

Nick Scholl, Paul Luce, David Hammons,  
Steven Yaden, and Carolyn Yaden

This year our Christmas Offering will be divided between Sharing Life's W.A.R.M Emergency Winter Shelter and the JOY Gift Offering of the PC (USA). The JOY Gift is an annual gift from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) It provides assistance to current and retired church workers in times of need. It also supports leadership development and education for Racial-Ethnic schools supported by the PC(USA). The offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's.

There are offering plates available by the narthex doors where you may leave your offering with an usher available. You may also make an offering online with the QR Code printed on the bulletin.

#### 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.

