

*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING
OUR FIRST 200 YEARS OF MINISTRY
DECEMBER 11, 2022*



200TH ANNIVERSARY



CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY FIVE YEARS
1822 - 1997



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 11, 2022 – 10:30 AM
Order of Worship

Welcome and Announcements-Thank you for joining us for this morning's worship service. We are glad to have you here! If this is your first time visiting with us, please fill out a visitor's form, found in the back of most pews. We would be pleased to add you to our email list, too. Welcome!

Prelude "Pifa" G. F. Handel

Call to Worship "Where the Promise Shines" Dunstan/Moore

(Please join choir on refrain printed in bulletin)
Advent Lighting by Oralie, Raymond, and Linda Rodrigues

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
In the darkness, we long to see the light.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
In the silence, we long for a comforting word.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
In hardship, we long for an act of love.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.
Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

Where the Promise Shines

Words by SYLVIA G. DUNSTAN
Music by BOB MOORE

Congregation:

Lead us on, lead us on to a morn - ing where the
prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on
to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

Hymn 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession-followed by a time for silent confession and prayer

The life of faith is not only about being faithful to God. It is knowing that God is faithful to us. Trusting that God will never turn away from us, let us tell the truth about our lives.

Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, so that we may follow your way of life and truth.

Assurance of God's Grace

There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem.

There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow.

Beloved, we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

"Keep Your Lamps"

Andrea Thomas

Doxology

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.

December Birthday Blessing

Prayers of the People

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-6

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Hymn 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Second Lesson

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in the kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send a messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Sermon

"No Reed, No Robe, No Denying"

Rev. Steve Frazier

The Sacrament of the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also, with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...Therefore with apostles and prophets, and that great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

...Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

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.

Distribution of the Elements and Communion of the People

Hymn 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Benediction

Postlude "The Shepherds" Wilbur Held

Church Staff

Steve Frazier – Covenant Pastor
Edna Broadhurst – Director of Music
Gabrielle Goodrich – Secretary

There is an urgent need for additional FPC volunteers to be on hand between 3:30-5:00 pm on Sundays. Most weeks, it simply requires someone willing to be on-site, greet the partner church volunteers who have prepared and will serve the meal, then locking up afterward (including the Courtyard). At least 1 (and often 3) FPC veterans are there each week, too. We're all in this together! Anyone interested in learning the (very minimal) ropes, please see Oralie Wilhite, Mary Ann Taylor or Sue Fay.

Week of December 11- Prayers of the People

- Mary Lemming
- Frances Hasty
- Paul Butler
- Lane Pittman
- Agnes McFadden
- Alice Simpson
- Karen Diggs
- Emily Bond
- Linda Thompson
- Monica Manley
- Those who have COVID

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Kathy Goolsby	22	Earl Griffin
6	Joyce Kallaher	26	Sarah Arambula
12	Jay James	27	Sean Taylor
12	Viki Goolsby	28	Elizabeth Pond Gerlach
18	Michael Broadhurst	28	Malakai Goodrich
20	Bill Faas	28	Riley Winkler
21	Pat Sparks	30	Kara McCormick
		30	Ian Taylor