

*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CELEBRATING
OUR FIRST 200 YEARS OF MINISTRY
DECEMBER 18, 2022*



200TH ANNIVERSARY



CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY FIVE YEARS
1822 - 1997



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 18, 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 "Lo, How a Rose"
Nancy Frazier and John Hackworth

Call to Worship "Where the Promise Shines" Dunstan/Moore
(Please join choir on refrain printed in bulletin)
Advent Lighting by Nancy Grant, Norma Halterman and Mary Ann Taylor

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
When we longed for the silence to be broken,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.
When we longed for peace that surpasses understanding,
God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Where the Promise Shines'. It consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with the instruction 'Congregation:'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: '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 123 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Invitation to Confession

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

God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.
Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved.

Assurance of God's Grace

Emmanuel did not come to this world to condemn, but to save.
God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.
Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

“A Tiny Little Baby”

Price

There’s a wonderful story that I love to tell ‘bout a tiny little baby named Jesus. So, gather around me now and listen well, ‘bout a tiny little baby named Jesus. It happened oh so long ago, amid the cold of the winter snow. He came from heav’n to the earth below, this tiny little baby named Jesus. And the angels sang: “Glory to God!” And the angels sang: “Glory to God!” And the angels sang “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will!” There were shepherds who came from the hills afar to see the tiny little baby named Jesus. Let by the light of the shining star to see the tiny little baby named Jesus. They entered in that lowly place and saw the smile on the mother’s face, and they all were filled with the holy grace of the tiny little baby named Jesus. And the angels sang: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will!”

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.**

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

Romans 1: 1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God - the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn 145

“What Child Is This”

Second Lesson

Matthew 1: 18-25

This is how the Birth of Jesus the Messiah came about; His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Sermon

“Abba”

Rev. Steve Frazier

Hymn 140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Benediction

Postlude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella”

arr. Christopher Uehlein

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