

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

**Service for the Lord's Day
November 29, 2015
First Sunday in Advent**

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Welcome to worship this morning.

- First Presbyterian Church welcomes families with young children. Staffed nursery care is available during worship. Audio from the worship service can be heard in the library (adjacent to the sanctuary) and social hall.
- If you are visiting because of medical treatment at Mayo Clinic we offer our prayers for healing.
- Our activities and programs are open to all, member and friend alike.
- We invite you to join us for coffee and fellowship in the social hall following the 8:30 service and in the atrium following the 11:00 service.

** As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones. **

Gathering

Prelude

Come, Savior of the Gentiles

J. S. Bach

*Our worship begins with the prelude. Let the power of the music speak to you of God's glory;
let its quietness tell you of God's peace; let its beauty lift your hearts in prayer.*

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship Register and pass it to the person next to you.

Minute for Giving Tree

Ruth Saling

Opening Prayer

Advent Candle Song (stanza 1; see page 4)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(8:30) Rick Morris
(11:00) Amy Knopp and Joseph Knopp

We seek clarity

Centuries before Christ's birth, Isaiah looked ahead and said, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined."

**But at times still, so little is clear. So much is fuzzy. Bring us to clarity,
O God. Lift the layer of confusion and clutter so that we may see your
truth and your clear way. Show us how we use confusion to keep from
moving. Give us a deeper appreciation of complexity – and from there
let us see all the lights that you have put along the way to guide us.**

*We light this first Advent candle in honor of simplicity and its partner, complexity.
We pray for clarity.*

Grant us clarity, O God.

Call to Worship

(8:30) Otis Laurberg
(11:00) Lucinda Cutrer

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ **Hymn 88** (stanzas 1-4) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial." With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silent Confession

Kyrie hymn 83 (stanza 1) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTT GART

Unison Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Words of Life

Friends, believe the good news; In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all. Amen.

◆ **Gloria Patri** REGENT SQUARE

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, expected King!

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◆ **Passing of the Peace**

Due to health concerns in this cold and flu season, please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!

The Word

Prayer for Illumination 458 (refrain only) Thy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet THY WORD

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Reading from the Gospel Luke 21:25-36

Anthem (8:30) Prepare the Way of the Lord Michael Larkin

from Isaiah 40 and Matthew 11 (paraphrased)
Barbara Depman, alto

(11:00) Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Michael Larkin
Chancel Choir

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

Rejoice, rejoice, believers; and let your lights appear. The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice! Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear. Rejoice! Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!

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Time for All Our Young Worshippers

Hymn 487 (stanza 1) These Treasured Children PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

These treasured children present now are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim to welcome them in Jesus' name.

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Pass Prayer Cards to the aisle. An usher will collect them.

Children through third grade may go to room E206 for Kids' Zone or are welcome to stay with their parents in worship. Children above third grade should stay in worship.

Reading from the Epistles

1st Thessalonians 3:9-13

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia hymn 347 (refrain) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High! PICARDY

Message *The Coming of the Hollow Days* Rev. T. J. Parlette

*** A Moment for Reflection ***

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 92** While We Are Waiting, Come WAITING

◆ Affirmation of Faith

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing was created. The life that was in him became light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

To all who receive him, who believe in him, he gives power to become children of God. The Word became flesh, a man named Jesus. He lived among us, full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace. In his name God has sent the Holy Spirit to teach us and to remind us of all that he has said. We believe that because he lives, we shall live also, to the glory of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (using 'debts' and 'debtors')

Offertory

At the Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten Charles Callahan

◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 144** (stanza 4) What Can I Give Him? CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

◆ Unison Prayer of Dedication

God of righteousness, you have saved us from the worst the world can do and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Christ comes again. In faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now, as we watch for Christ's coming in glory. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

◆ Benediction

◆ **Response, hymn 106** (refrain) BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

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Postlude Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Paul Manz

Those who wish may be seated for the postlude. Our music is offered to the glory of God; if you want to express your appreciation, a spoken "Amen" or "Praise God" is appropriate.

Advent Candle

Lee J. Afdahl ©1999



Ad - vent can - dle, Ad - vent can - dle, give us light a - long our



way. Guide us for - ward to the man - ger of our



Sav - ior Christ to - day. 1.Can - dle one re - minds us
2.Can - dle two re - minds us
3.Can - dle three re - minds us
4.Can - dle four re - minds us
5.Christ - mas Can - dle can re -



of the time when the pro - phets did fore - tell of the
of the time John the Bap - tist did pro - claim, "Clear the
of the time John re - vealed his pur - pose here, to pro -
of the time when the an - gel Ga - bri - el came to
mind - us of our Sav - ior Christ the Lord, of His



com - ing of the Son of God. Watch and pray; pre - pare you well.
way, pre - pare the high - way, and the hills be - come a plain."
claim the cap - tives' free - dom, and bap - tize with wat - ter.
Mar - y, "Peace be with - you, for with God shall all be well."
birth and our sal - va - tion, for 'tis He whom we a - dore.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist

Rick L. Morris, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Diane M. Johnston-Arthur, Custodian

Office hours: Monday-Thursday (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.); Friday (7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.); Saturday (9:30 a.m.-noon)

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rochesterfpc@msn.com; www.fpcrochester.org

*The mission of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester
is to reflect God's love for all people by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Calendar for the week of November 29 – December 6 (and beyond)

TODAY – November 29

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by the Huizenga family in memory of Kenneth Huizenga.

A **nursery** for infants through 2-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a quiet space for nursing mothers. An usher would be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

Education hour:

- 9:40-10:45: Nursery - preschool (2-years-old)
- 9:40-10:20: Calvin Choir for grades 2-5
- 9:40-10:20: Sunday school for age 3-grade 1
- 9:40-10:45: Sunday school/education hour for grades 6 – adult education
- 10:20-10:50: Cherub Choir for age 4-grade 1
- 10:20-11:00: Sunday school for grade 2-5

With many old and new traditions either continuing or being created, the Christian Education Committee is offering **Advent Creations in the PreK-5th grade Sunday School classes today.**

Adults:

- 9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Bible Study* in south fireside room ... *Matthew*
- 9:40 a.m.: *Current Issues* in Sheldon Jackson lounge ... *The Top Ten Lists (part 1)*
- 9:40 a.m.: *Grace-based Parenting Class* will start its next study, *Building Character*. All current and future parents and grandparents are welcome, even if you can't come every week. Join us for fellowship and discussion! The class meets in room A-101.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

TUESDAY – December 1

Lee Afdahl will be the recitalist on the Advent recital series at Calvary Episcopal Church from 12:15-12:45 p.m.

Board of Deacons meets at 7 p.m.

Most committees meet, although check with your lead elder if you aren't sure about yours.

WEDNESDAY – December 2

Worship and communion at Charter House at 1 p.m.

Madrigal Singers rehearse at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Activities	
4:15	Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5)
5:00	Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
5:45	Supper (suggested donation \$4/person or \$10 max/family)
6:15	Middle School youth group (grades 6-8)
6:15	Senior High youth group (grades 9-12)
6:30	Adult Bible study—"The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" led by Rev. Parlette
7:15	Joyous Praise handbells (grades 6-12)

If you ordered books for the **Advent Bible study** you can pick them up in the church office.

THURSDAY – December 3

Jubilate Deo Bells rehearses at 6:15 p.m.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY – December 4

Dress rehearsal for Madrigal Christmas Feaste.

SATURDAY – December 5

Orchestra for Lessons and Carols will rehearse at 1 p.m.

Madrigal Christmas Feaste for those who have purchased tickets. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY – December 6 (Advent Two)

Worship and communion at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

A parish nurse will be in the library between services December 6 to take your **blood pressure** and answer questions you may have about your health.

SUNDAY – December 13 (Advent Three)

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

The annual service of **Lessons and Carols** will be led by the Chancel, Calvin, and Youth Choirs with handbells, orchestra and organ at both 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship hours. The service, including the reading of nine lessons, carols and anthems, is based on the traditional English service of the same name.

For Your Information

Due to the great response to having pictures taken for a new **pictorial directory**, we have added two more days – January 15 and 16. If you weren't able to sign up before, please check again. Thanks!

You can pick up a copy of the PCUSA **Advent devotional calendar** at the welcome desk or in the church office.

Help celebrate the Advent season with a \$15 donation to the **poinsettia fund**. The plants will decorate the sanctuary November 29 and December 6 and then be delivered by the Deacons to our 40 C.A.R.E. members. To contribute, put your check (note for poinsettias) in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

Spread Christmas joy by ringing a bell for the Salvation Army. The Social Concerns Committee encourages FPC members to support the Salvation Army's Christmas Red Kettle campaign by spending an hour or two ringing bells at one of their collection sites. Every hour is important because a one-hour shift, on average, will raise \$50 compared to zero for an unstaffed kettle. To volunteer, phone 288-3663, ex. 101 or register online at www.RochesterSA.org or www.RegistertoRing.com. A community menu will appear. Choose Bell-Ringing and follow the prompts. If you would like additional information or need assistance signing up, call **Al Dollerschell** (282-5025).

The **Sharing Tree** in the atrium is decorated with paper ornaments, each representing a charitable program in Rochester. Select a gift tag from the tree and follow the instructions on the back of the tag. Attach the tag to your gift and return it to the church by December 13. Gifts will be designated for Dorothy Day House (gifts for homeless adults – red tags), Interfaith Hospitality Network (gifts for homeless families – white tags), or the Alternative Learning Center Daycare (gifts for infants – blue tags). Your participation in our annual Sharing Tree is looked forward to by many in our community.

Monday, December 21 is FPC's day for gift wrapping at the Mall to **benefit Habitat for Humanity**. Sign up for one of 3 shifts: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1 - 4 p.m. or 4 - 7 p.m. Five people are needed for each shift: 3 gift wrappers and 2 cashiers. Donations received will assist in building homes for four families with a total of 15 children. Call or e-mail Marcia Dollerschell (mgdoller@aol.com or 398-9397) if you can help with this worthwhile project.

Among the Church Family

Congratulations to Don and Barbara Cain who will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary December 6