

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day

11 a.m.

December 27, 2015

First Sunday after Christmas Day

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 atrium following the service.

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

Gathering

Prelude

From Heaven Above To Earth I Come
Jeff Daehn, guest organist

Johann Pachelbel

*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.

Invocation and Prayer

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come from heaven! We come to receive him!

Christ lives among us! We have come to worship him!

O earth, sing to the Lord! O nations, praise him in joy, for he is with us!

Call to Worship

Bev Lewis

Praise the living God! Praise God from the heavens:

Sun and moon, and shining stars, praise the living God!

**Praise the Holy Name whose word speaks all things into being,
who created the forces of the universe and the laughter of children.**

Praise the Holy Name!

*Praise the Living God from the earth: clouds and storms and ocean currents,
fish in the sea and creatures of the deep, animals and cattle, insects and birds,
praise the living God!*

**People and rulers, powerless and power brokers,
young women, young men, children and elders together,
praise the Holy Name!**

*Praise the living God whose Name alone is exalted,
our Rescuer and Deliverer in all our distress.*

Praise the living God!

**Praise the Holy Name who came among us in person, whose living presence
saves us! Praise God's Holy Name!**

Let us worship and sing our praises

◆ Hymn 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

◆ Please stand if you are able.

Invitation to Prayer (seated)

The Psalmist declares, 'O Israel, wait and watch for God—with God's arrival comes love, with God's arrival comes generous redemption...' The Lord is here. God longs to set us free from our burdens. God's love can melt away all our regret and isolation and welcome us home. God's love and redemption has come to us in Jesus Christ, let us adore him with a holy silence ...

Silent Confession

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

STUTTGART

Litany of Confession and Praise

*Dear Friends, consider these questions:
Who chose us in Christ before space and time were conceived,
before the universe exploded into immensity?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*Who destined us for adoption as beloved children,
to be holy and blameless in God's presence?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*Who has paid off all our debts and purchased our redemption
through the shedding of Christ's blood on the cross?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*Who can mend the harm we have done,
the hurt we have inflicted,
and the wrongs we cannot put right?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*Who can forgive all our trespasses,
our sin against God
and against our neighbors?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*To whom do we owe our love, loyalty,
thanksgiving, and praise?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

*Who has lavished grace upon us,
and plans in the fullness of time
to bring all things to completion?*

God alone, through Jesus Christ!

Amen.

◆ **Response of Praise 119 (stanza 3)** Hark! the Herald Angels

MENDELSSOHN

*Hail! The heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

◆ **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

Unison Prayer for Illumination

Generous God, inspire us by the breath of your Holy Spirit, that in the hearing of your Word we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 148

Hymn 123 (seated) It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

Reading from the Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17

Hymn 152 (seated) What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 110 (seated)

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

Our Response

◆ **Affirmation of Faith**

The authority of Jesus Christ comes not by conquest, domination, and manipulation, but by gracious love gladly given and willingly received. The fellowship of Jesus Christ comes wherever people covenant together and say,

Christ, we are your body: live in our hearts.

Christ, we are your people: govern our lives.

Christ, we are your witnesses: send us out in your name! Amen!

◆ **Hymn 116**

The Snow Lay on the Ground

VENITE ADORAMUS

◆ **Hymn 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Medley of Carols (stanza one of each) (seated)

Hymn 118 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

Hymn 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Hymn 133 O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Hymn 134 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Offertory

At the Offertory

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
Jeff Daehn, guest organist

Christopher Uehlein

◆ **Response Hymn 145** (stanza 3)

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In His name we pray. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 136**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

◆ **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

Noel VIII

Louis Daquin

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.

Calendar for the week of December 28 – January 4 (and beyond)

TODAY – December 27

We thank all who are sharing their ministries in worship today, with a special “thank you” to Jeff Daehn, guest organist.

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Robert and Ann Groover in memory of loved ones, family and friends.

A **nursery** for infants through 2-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a quiet space for nursing mothers.

WEDNESDAY – December 30

No Wednesday activities this week.

FRIDAY–January 1

Church will be closed.

SATURDAY– January 2

Church will be closed.

SUNDAY – January 3

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

Sunday school and **adult education** classes resume.

TUESDAY – January 5

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

WEDNESDAY – January 6

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

All Wednesday activities resume.

THURSDAY – January 7

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

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY – January 9

Help “**undecorate**” the church at 9:30 a.m. There will be jobs for everyone and snacks to keep you going.

SUNDAY – January 10

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

New officer/Session training and examination at 9:40 a.m. in the great room.

Ordination and installation of deacons and elders at the 11 a.m. service.

One of our **parish nurses** will be in the library between services January 10 and available to take your blood pressure.

MONDAY – January 18

ALL **Annual Reports** are due either in the office or e-mailed to fpc_carol@hotmail.com.

For Your Information

Picture Directory Update. We're excited to note that during the second week of December, nearly 100 families had their pictures taken for the picture directory. Our second (and last) photo session will take place January 12-16. There are still open photo sessions on some of those days—particularly on Saturday, January 16. Please register online or call Jane Hallman at 507-993-6652 to schedule (or reschedule) an appointment. If you are unable to be photographed by our contracted photographer and would like to have your photo included in the directory, contact Jane regarding submitting a photo. Deadline for submission is Friday, January 15.

Offering envelopes for 2016 are in the social hall. If there isn't a box with your name and you want to use envelopes, check in the church office. We also have boxes of envelopes available for children and youth.

As you consider your **year-end financial donations**, please make your church a high priority. Gifts can be given to your General Budget or Outreach pledges for either this year or next year, as an "over and above" donation, designated for the Endowment Fund, or designated for special programs within the church. Talk to Carol Evans if you have any questions.

Pledge Statements. We will mail final statements for 2014 about January 8. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2014 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2014 we either need to receive your donation by December 31 or your envelope needs to be postmarked by December 31.

2016 budget update. In November we dedicated our pledges to help underwrite FPC's General Budget and Outreach Budget for 2016. Projected pledges and related income now total \$xxxxxx.xx, leaving a gap of about \$40,000 between income and committee requests. If you haven't returned your pledge card yet, please do it soon. Thank you! Thanks to those who have already responded!]

Each year our church activities are summarized in the “Annual Reports to the Congregation.” If you are responsible for writing a report, we need it in the church office by January 12. The best reports are those sent to Carol via e-mail or a Word attachment to an e-mail (evans.carol@FPCRochester.org).

Among Our Church Family

Happy Birthday to Marie Bolton who will celebrate her 92nd birthday January 3.

Happy Birthday to Jane Irving who will celebrate her 93rd birthday January 6.

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)

First Presbyterian Church; 512 SW Third Street / Rochester, MN 55902; 507/282-1618

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.*