

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 4, 2016
Second Sunday in Advent

8:30 and 11 a.m.

Welcome to worship!

- First Presbyterian Church welcomes families with young children. Staffed nursery care is available during worship and Sunday school. 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 and social hall after the first service and in the atrium after the second service.

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

Gathering

Prelude

Advent Meditation
Alleluia Ringers

Douglas Wagner

*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 Christmas Joy Offering

(8:30) Marylynn Aalderks
(11:00) Douglas Brown

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Liturgy by Judith Smithson
(8:30) Chris and Ariel Boswell
(11:00) Otis Laurberg and Carol Shaffer

Advent Candle Song 92 (stanza 1) While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CASON)

Call to Worship

(8:30) Jay Youmans
(11:00) Ruth Saling

Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place.

**As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom,
counsel, knowledge and joy.**

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ Hymn 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

*Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience,
idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day. For if we say we
have no sin, we deceive ourselves. Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.*

Silent Confession

◆ Please stand if you are able.

Kyrie, hymn 89 (refrain only)

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we find it hard to believe in your incarnation. We don't always heed your word each day in all we say and do. We don't always see our neighbors, families and friends as beloved children of God whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen.

Words of Life

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe. 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!

©1990 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Text reprinted under CCLI #2720777.

◆ **Passing of the Peace**

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 106 (stanza 1) Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Anthem (8:30)

Christ, the Apple Tree
Chancel Choir

Stanford Scriven

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel. By faith I know, but n'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all but now I see, 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive.
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
I'm wearied with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while.
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

©2009 Earthsongs. All rights reserved. CCLI #2720777.

(11:00)

Hosanna! Hosanna!

Helen Kemp

Cherub Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Carol Shaffer, accompanist
Hosanna! Hosanna! The little children sing. Hosanna! Hosanna! For Christ our Lord is King.
"Prepare the way," the little children sing. "Hosanna to our Lord and King!"

Time for All Our Young Worshippers

Hymn sung to All Things Bright and Beautiful

ROYAL OAK

Come, Lord Jesus, to this holy place, and bless the children here.
Guide them, mold them in your gentle ways, to know your love so dear.

Text by Judith Smithson.

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

Romans 15:4-13

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word, hymn 137 (stanza 1) He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

Message

To Have Hope

Rev. T.J. Parlette

*** A Moment for Reflection ***

Our Response

◆ Hymn 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

◆ Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the
forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Alan Petker

◆ 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

**We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for
Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness,
for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the
bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in
baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our
offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude. Amen.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion is open to all who believe that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior.
The wine used in this sacrament is grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available.

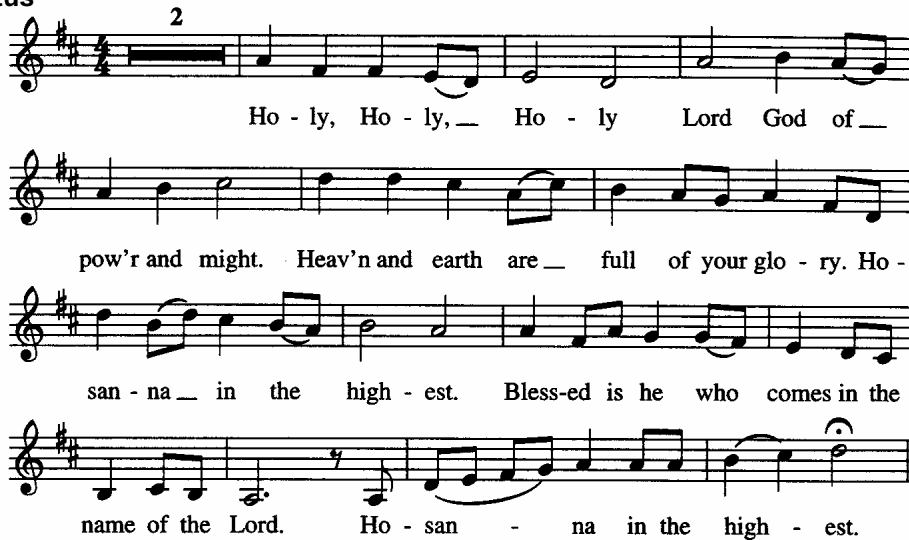
Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is for the Minister/Cantor and the People, with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts." The second staff is for the People and Minister/Cantor, with lyrics: "We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The third staff is for the People, with lyrics: "It is right to give our — thanks and praise." The lyrics are written below the notes, and the vocal parts are clearly labeled as "Minister/Cantor" and "People".

... With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

... Remembering that is not our words which save us, but your imaginative Word of beauty and love; remembering that it is not our achievements, but our hope in Jesus Christ who assures us of your love, we celebrate that mystery we call faith:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ is the bread of life: When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we pro-claim your death, Lord Je - sus, un - til you come in glo - ry.

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

Distribution of the Elements

Please come forward to be served. If you wish to be served in the pew, a server will be in the side aisle to assist you. You may join in singing hymn 507, "Come to the Table of Grace."

Prayer after Communion

Sending

- ◆ Hymn 516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken KINGDOM
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Benediction Response, hymn 88 (refrain) VENI EMMANUEL
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
- ◆ Postlude On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry Malcolm Archer

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.

Some of the service music was written by Lee J Afdahl and is published in "Holy Is the Lord" ©2003.

Pick up a copy of the PCUSA **Advent devotional calendar**, *A Journey of Memories*, at the welcome desk or in the church office.

We thank these people for contributing to the Poinsettia Fund.

Deacons will deliver the plants to our C.A.R.E. members after today's second service.

C.A.R.E. = **C**ontact **A**ssist **R**elate **E**ncourage, a program through which
Deacons reach out to members of First Presbyterian Church with C.A.R.E.

Kenneth and Marylynn Aalderks
Lyle and Zoe Abrahamson
Lee Afdahl and Van Jacobsen
Steven Aug
Richard and Janice Bennett
Kay Boege
Heide and Helmut Buettner
Peter and Carol Carryer
Jon and Diane Closson
Charles and Becki Coddington

Holly Ebel
David and Char Ellefson
Gregg and Rebecca Erickson
Judy Felten
Edward and Frances Gomez
C Michel and Mary Harper
Sandra and Derald Holloway
William and Jeannine Karnes
David and Alice Kerr
Robert and Charlene Kyle

Donna Lee
David and Amy Mahon
Clayton and Jacqueline Moen
Mark and Michelle Mueller
Donald Scholz
Mary Sheridan
Tony and Judy Smithson
James and Patricia Talen
Alfred and Ursula Thedens
Jay and Britta Youmans

***Calendar for the week of December 4 – December 11
(and beyond)***

SUNDAY – December 4 (Advent 2)

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

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by The Bastron Family in memory of James A. Bastron, M.D.

A **nursery** for infants through 3-year-olds is staffed throughout the morning. We also offer a quiet space for nursing mothers. An usher will be happy to direct you if you don't know where the nursery is located.

Education hour:

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

Adults:

- 9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Bible Study of Matthew* in south fireside room (A-104)
- 9:40 a.m.: *Current Issues: Current Events: the Pros and Cons* in the lounge.

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

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

TUESDAY – December 6

Deacons meet at 7 p.m. in the south fireside room.

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

WEDNESDAY – December 7

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

Wednesday Activities	
4:15	Alleluia Ringers (grades 2-5)
5:00	Youth Choir (grades 6-12)
5:45	Middle School youth group (grades 6-8)
5:45	Senior High youth group (grades 9-12)
6:30	Adult Bible study—"The Redemption of Scrooge" led by Rev. T. J. Parlette.
7:00	Joyous Praise handbells (intergenerational)

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

THURSDAY – December 8

Sharing Tree gifts for Med City Foundation are due in the church office December 8.

Prayer Shawl group meets at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

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

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY – December 9

NO Sitter Service in December.

SATURDAY – December 10

Orchestra for Lessons and Carols will rehearse at 9:30 p.m. **Chancel and Calvin Choirs and handbells** join the orchestra at 10.

SUNDAY – December 11 (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.

At 9:45 we will dedicate our recently renovated spaces with a special ribbon cutting ceremony. Meet in the atrium and visit the social hall, kitchen, music room and multipurpose room.

MONDAY – December 12

First Players will present their Winter Concert at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY – December 14

Kitchen Guild will meet at 1 p.m.

All **Wednesday activities** are on as usual.

All **Sharing Tree gifts** are due.

THURSDAY – December 15

Items for the **January newsletter** are due. Turn them in to the church office or e-mail them to fpc_carol@hotmail.com.

Chancel Choir and **Jubilate Deo Bells** will have a Christmas Party at 6:30.

SATURDAY – December 17

Ruth Circle will meet at 10 a.m. in the lounge for Bible study followed by a luncheon Christmas party..

SUNDAY – December 18 (Advent 4)

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

There will be a special time during the 8:30 service for prayer for those struggling in the holiday season.

The **children's Christmas program** will be presented during the 11 a.m. service.

The **Christmas Joy offering** will be dedicated although your contribution will be gratefully accepted any time in December. Please note "Joy Offering" on the memo line of your check or use an envelope from the pew rack.

Covenant Fellowship's annual Christmas party will begin at 6 p.m. at the home of Dave and Alice Kerr (1405 Wilshire Woods Lane NE). Please bring a wrapped "white elephant" gift to exchange and an appetizer to share. Come even if you don't have time to fix or buy a food item. Hosts are Barbara Boyer, Alice Kerr, and Ruth Saling.

MONDAY – December 19

Esther Circle will meet at noon in the lounge for a potluck lunch and program. Please bring a small salad or hot dish to pass and two dozen Christmas goodies to share.

TUESDAY – December 20

Session will meet at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY – December 21

Priscilla Circle will meet at 10 a.m. in the social hall with the potluck brunch at 11 a.m.

Crafters Group will meet at 3 p.m. in the social hall. Bring that almost finished project or help us make cards for C.A.R.E. members of FPC.

All other **Wednesday activities** are on as usual.

THURSDAY – December 22

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

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY – December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Services of worship at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.

- 3:00 Cherub and Calvin Choirs and Alleluia Ringers and Joyous Praise handbell choir warm up.
- 4:00 Worship service with Calvin and Cherub Choirs and Alleluia Ringers and Joyous Praise handbell choirs.
- 10:00 Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo handbell choir warm up.
- 10:30 Prelude with ensembles, handbells, and choir.
- 11:00 Candlelight service.

SUNDAY – December 25

Merry Christmas!

One service of worship at 11 a.m. No Sunday school or nursery.

For Your Information

Alternative Giving Opportunity. Members of the Mission Committee will be in the atrium with information about making an alternative Christmas gift through the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This is a chance to give a gift in honor of someone who has everything or to give a gift in memory of a loved one. Gifts may be in any amount. Please consider this shopping opportunity.

On Wednesday evenings from November 30 through December 21, Rev. Parlette is leading an **Advent study** on the book "The Redemption of Scrooge," based on Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Stewardship 2017: Faithful Stewardship: with much, with little, with all. Our ability to accomplish our goal depends on the generous financial support of the congregation. Please do your part by making a generous pledge and returning your card by mail or in the offering plate by December 10. There are extra pledge cards in the pew racks if you forgot yours today. To date we have received 201 pledges for \$647,891 toward our goal of \$729,734 in pledges.

The **Sharing Tree** in the atrium is decorated with paper ornaments 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 the due dates. Gifts are designated for MedCity Foundation (general assistance for blood cancer patients and their families - due December 8), Dorothy Day House (gifts for homeless adults - due December 14), Interfaith Hospitality Network (gifts for homeless families - due December 14), or Alternative Learning Center Daycare (gifts for infants - due December 14). Your participation in the Sharing Tree is looked forward to by many in our community.

Spread Christmas joy by ringing a bell for the Salvation Army. The Social Concerns Committee encourages FPC members to support 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, raises \$50 compared to zero for an unstaffed kettle. To volunteer, register online at www.RochesterSA.org. A community menu will appear. Choose "Sign up to ring bells." Select a range of days, a city, and the collection sites where you'd like to ring. Click on "search" and a list of openings that fit your criteria will appear. Check the appropriate boxes and then "submit." Thanks!

When you use the **stove in the kitchen** PLEASE be sure you **manually turn on the fan**. If you have any questions, ask Harry Coleman!

The annual Christmas Joy Offering distributes gifts 50/50 to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please give generously.

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

Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Vera B. Herr, Custodian

Child Care staff: Kelly Bock, Woo-Jung Ra, Margie Schaaf

Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Sue Kruger, Tami Rinn, Eric Schwartzbauer

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.*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)