

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 3, 2017
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

Savior of the Nations, Come
Joyous Praise Handbell Choir

Joshua Kramer

*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 and Alternative Christmas Giving

Eileen Hay

Opening Prayer

Musical Reflection hymn 85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(8:30) The Casey and Kathryn Lenn Family
Paul and Shelley Steger
(11:00) Mary Huie and Phyllis Schmid

Advent Hymn 85 (stanza 1) Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Call to Worship

(8:30) Kathleen Tremaine
(11:00) Robert Kyle

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake!

The time is drawing near:

We enter the season of holy waiting. Let us worship the Lord.

◆ **Hymn 102**

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILEND

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up;

Faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done.

Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life. Let us confess our sin to God.

Silent Confession

Kyrie, hymn 96 (stanza 2) On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry WINCHESTER NEW

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Text in Public Domain.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your divine presence in our lives, in the church or in the world. Make us better custodians of our lives as we patiently wait for the advent of your Son. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

Words of Life

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end

so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

Thanks be to God, who is faithful always. 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**

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) 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.

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Reading from the Gospels

Mark 13:24-37

Anthem (8:30)

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirett

Chancel Choir

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, not his airs, nor by anything he wears.
Not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

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(11:00)

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Mark Patterson

Cherub Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Carol Shaffer, accompanist

In the silence Lord, hear our prayer. In the stillness Lord, hear our prayer.

Our spoken words, our silent thoughts, these we humbly share.

In this moment Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

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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

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word, hymn 92 (stanza 1) While We Are Waiting, Come WAITING (CASON)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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Message

The Holiness of Waiting

Rev. T. J. Parlette

** A moment for reflection – may God continue to speak to us in the silence. **

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 92** While We Are Waiting, Come WAITING (COSON)

◆ **Affirmation of Faith** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

At the offertory

(8:30)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

arr. Jeremy Bankson

(See hymn 203 for text.)

Chancel Choir; Ariel Boswell, flute

(11:00) Savior of the Nations, Come (Chorale and Chaconne) Kenneth Kosche

◆ **Offertory Response, hymn 145** (stanza 3) What Child Is This? GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

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◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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 to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name ...

Sanctus 552

LAND OF REST

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, hosanna in the highest.

... Great is the mystery of faith ...

Memorial Acclamation 553

LAND OF REST

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

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

Words of Institution

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 527 (opt A), "Eat This Bread."

Eat this bread; drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread; drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

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Prayer after Communion

Sending

◆ **Hymn 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

◆ **Benediction**

◆ **Benediction Response, hymn 106 (refrain)**

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come (Toccata)

Kenneth Kosche

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 3 – December 10 (and beyond)

SUNDAY – December 3 (Advent One)

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

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Louise Bastron 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 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.: *Current Events: Beyond the Headlines* (lounge/E-207)
- 9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Bible Study of Matthew* (south fireside room/A-104)

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

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

The **Sharing Tree** will be in the atrium as long as there are tags to be taken.

TUESDAY – December 5

Grief Support Group meets at 11 a.m. in the library.

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. We know some have either cancelled or rescheduled.

WEDNESDAY – December 6

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 – <i>Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph</i> led by Rev. T. J. Parlette |
| 7:00 | Joyous Praise handbells (grades 6-12 & adults) |

If you ordered a book for the **Advent Bible study** you can pick it up in the church office.

THURSDAY – December 7

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

Chancel Choir rehearses at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY – December 8

NO Sitter Service in December but will resume January 12.

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

SATURDAY – December 9

Orchestra for Lessons and Carols rehearses at 10 a.m.

SUNDAY – December 10 (Advent Two)

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

TUESDAY – December 12

On Tuesday, December 12, **First Presbyterian Church** will host a "Get to Meet Steve" discussion. Co-sponsored by the Rochester organization *In The City for Good*, the session will allow members of our church, as well as those from the community, to meet and greet Mr. Steve Rymer, the new Rochester city manager. Mr. Rymer is reaching out to the community in an effort to meet the residents on a personal level and to learn what the concerns of the community are.

Mr. Rymer is a native of Minnesota. He obtained his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a Masters in Public Administration from Hamline University. Prior to accepting the City Manager position in Rochester, he was the city manager in Morgan Hills, California. He reports that this move is "an opportunity to live closer to family, and to work and live in a nationally recognized city."

The session will be from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 12 in the social hall. (Ken Aalderks)

WEDNESDAY – December 13

Kitchen Guild meets at 1 p.m.

Wednesday Activities as usual.

THURSDAY – December 14

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 15

All **Sharing Tree gifts** are due.

Items for the **January newsletter** are due either to fpc_carol@hotmail.com or in the church office.

SATURDAY – December 16

Orchestra for Lessons and Carols rehearses at 9:30 a.m. **Chancel/Youth and Calvin Choirs and handbells** join the orchestra at 10.

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

SUNDAY – December 17 (Advent Three)

The annual service of **Lessons and Carols** will be led by the Chancel/Youth and Calvin 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.

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. The 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.

MONDAY – December 18

Esther Circle meets at 1 p.m. in the lounge.

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

TUESDAY – December 19

Session meets at 7 p.m. in the south fireside room.

WEDNESDAY – December 20

Priscilla Circle will meet at 10 a.m. in the social hall with a 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 **Wednesday activities** are on as usual.

THURSDAY – December 21

Chancel Choir and **Jubilate Deo Bells** will have a Christmas Party at 6 p.m.

SUNDAY – December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Morning worship at 11 a.m. only. No Sunday school. During the Sunday school hour Cherub and Calvin Choirs and Sunday school children will rehearse for the afternoon pageant.

Christmas Eve Services at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.

3:00 Cherub and Calvin Choirs and Alleluia Ringers warm up.

4:00 **Service of worship and Children's Pageant** with Calvin and Cherub Choirs, Alleluia Ringers, and Sunday school children

10:00 Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo handbell choir warm up.

10:30 Prelude with ensembles, handbells, and choir.

11:00 **Candlelight service** with Chancel Choir and Jubilate Deo.

MONDAY – December 25

Merry Christmas!

No services will be held at the church. The church will be closed.

TUESDAY – December 26

The church will be closed.

SUNDAY – December 31

Happy New Year!

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

For Your Information

Help celebrate the Advent season with a \$15 donation to the **poinsettia fund**. The plants will decorate the sanctuary in December 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.

Pick up a copy of the PCUSA **Advent devotional calendar**, *Let Love Speak: words and actions to pave the way of the Lord*, at the welcome desk or in the church office.

Advent Calendar Chain kit available in church office. Thanks to all who participated in last Sunday's Advent Creations. If you were unable to attend, there are a few craft kits left in the church office. The kits contain everything needed to make an Advent Calendar Scripture chain. The craft is fun for all ages and is an excellent way to count down to Christmas. Stop by the office if you'd like a kit! (Susanna Stone)

You're invited to visit Santa at Hillers on December 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be gifts, food, crafts and pictures. The event is coordinated by Carrie and Rob Elder.

Among the Church Family

Congratulations to Don and Barbara Cain who will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary December 6.

Happy Birthday to Hilda Nelson who will celebrate her 91st birthday December 4.

Stewardship 2018: Gratitude: thankful, grateful, blessed.

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 during worship today, by mail, or in the offering plate any Sunday. Extra pledge cards are in the pew racks if you need another one. As of November 29 we had received 215 pledges for \$691,343 toward a pledge goal of \$743,318.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist
Susanna L. Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education

Kathleen M. Kruger, Music Assistant
Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Brian D. Stevens, Custodian

Child Care staff: Esther Lebron, Margie Schaaf, Taylor Smith
Security and custodial personnel: Steven Aug, Sally Evans, Tami Rinn

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
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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.)