

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 10, 2017
Second 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Alleluia Ringers

John Behnke

*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.

Opening Prayer

Musical Reflection hymn 85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Lighting of the Advent Candle

(8:30) Judy Felten and Cindy Kunzman
(11:00) Otis Laurberg and Carol Shaffer

Advent Hymn 85 (stanza 2) Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

TIF IN VELDELE

Call to Worship

(8:30) Lucinda Cutrer
(11:00) Dee Tiedeman

A voice cries in the wilderness

"Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear."

Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.

For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Let us worship the Lord.

◆ **Hymn 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Call to Reconciliation (please be seated)

*God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance.
Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.*

Silent Confession

◆ Please stand if you are able.

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

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Words of Life

Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

◆ **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.

Ordination and Installation (11:00)

Ron Kreinbring (Elder, Class of 2019)

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 1:1-8

Anthem (8:30) He Comes to Us as One Unknown John Ferguson

Chancel Choir

He comes to us as one unknown, a breath unseen, unheard; as though within a heart of stone, or shriveled seed in darkness sown, a pulse of being stirred, a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie and thoughts of day depart; half-seen upon the inward eye, a falling star across the sky of night within the heart, of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas, the ocean's fume and foam; yet small and still upon the breeze, a wind that stirs the tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and birth; to bear within our mortal frame a life, a death, a saving name, for ev'ry child of earth, for ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown; believed, obeyed, adored; the Christ in all the Scriptures shown, as yet unseen, but not unknown, our Savior and our Lord, our Savior and our Lord.

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(11:00)

Advent Joy

Hap Hopson

Calvin Choir; Katie Kruger, director; Barbara Depman, accompanist

A star shining in the dark, a song ringing through the night,
These are the signs of the Holy birth. These are the wonders of God on earth.

We look! We listen! We wait! O come, O come, Emanuel.

God with us? How can it be?

Adam's own son by God's decree. This is the truth the prophets told.

This is the one we soon will behold. God with us! Sing! Rejoice!

Jesus is coming, his star appears, Jesus is coming, the song the Earth hears.

Veni Emanuel. Veni Emanuel. Come, Lord Jesus, come soon!

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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

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

Merely Christian

Rev. T. J. Parlette

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

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 94** Now the Heavens Start to Whisper JEFFERSON

◆ **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.**

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

Offertory

At the offertory
(8:30)

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
Chancel Choir

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God.
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

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(11:00)

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Charles Callahan

◆ **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!

Text is in Public Domain.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Psalm 85:10

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

◆ **Benediction**

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

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

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.

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
Richard and Janice Bennett
Kay Boege
Carolyn Burt
Don and Barbara Cain
Jon and Diane Closson
Charles and Becki Coddington
David and Char Ellefson

Judy Felten
Dean and Judith Funk
Edward and Frances Gomez
C Michel and Mary Harper
Brad and Lynn Kemp
Brad and Sara Kluck
Sandra and Derald Holloway
Robert and Charlene Kyle
Donna Lee
Clayton and Jacqueline Moen

Marion Pitts
Gretchen Sandvik
Margie Schaaf
Robert and Laury Schalau
Donald Scholz
Mary Sheridan
Tony and Judy Smithson
Thomas and Connie Smyrk
Bernie Swenson and Terri Vrtiska
James and Patricia Talen

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
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.)

Calendar for the week of December 10 – December 17 (and beyond)

SUNDAY – December 10 (Advent 2)

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

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Dan and Tammy Buchanan in celebration of their anniversary.

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.

The youth will be selling greeting cards they made this fall after both the 8:30 and 11 a.m. services. All proceeds will go directly to the youth group.

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 and 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. The session will be from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the social hall

Mr. Rymer is a native of Minnesota. He obtained his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master's 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."

WEDNESDAY – December 13

Kitchen Guild meets 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)

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 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.

First Players will present a program of Christmas music at Apache Mall at 3 p.m.

SUNDAY – December 17 (Advent 3)

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.

Covenant Fellowship will gather for its annual Christmas Party at 6 p.m. at the home of Dave and Alice Kerr (1405 Wilshire Woods Lane NE). Please bring an appetizer and a dessert to share plus a wrapped white elephant gift. Reply to Connie Polk (cmbpolk@gmail.com or 507-288-4205).

MONDAY – December 18

Esther Circle will meet at NOON in the lounge for a potluck luncheon.

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.

An Adult Bible Study, *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*, will meet at 6:30 p.m. and be led by Rev. T. J. Parlette

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, Sunday school children.

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

10:30 Prelude with organ, 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.

WEDNESDAY – December 27

NO Wednesday activities this week.

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 in church office. Thanks to all who participated in 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)

As you consider your **year-end financial donations**, please make your church a high priority.

Gifts can be given to your General Budget, Outreach, or Capital Campaign 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.

Among the Church Family

Congratulations to Robert and Susan McClocklin who will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary December 17.

Happy Birthday to Clifford Gastineau who will celebrate his 97th birthday December 18.

We extend our condolences to Helen and Lonny Olson-Williams on the death of Helen's mother, Norma Olson, November 28.

Christmas Pageant Information

The FPC Children's Christmas Pageant will be held at the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, December 24. A mandatory Pageant rehearsal will be held at 9:45 a.m. that Sunday morning, December 24, in the church sanctuary.

The Pageant is open to all FPC children, from Pre-K to High School. Children who are interested in the Pageant but not regular choir attendees are encouraged to attend the first few minutes of choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings in order to learn the Pageant songs, though this is not necessary."

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 December 5 we have received \$702,917 toward a pledge goal of \$730,818.

*** WEATHER ADVISORY ***

If we need to cancel services due to extreme weather conditions, we will send that announcement to KTTT-TV, KTTT.com, put it on our WEB page FPCRochester.org, put it on the church's answering machine, and, if possible, send you an e-mail. Whenever canceling is a possibility, please check these sources for up-to-date information.

*** SAFETY ADVISORY ***

In the coming winter season when conditions can create slippery walkways, we ask all members to be responsible and wear appropriate footwear made for snow and ice and choose the safest path from your car into the building. The staff aims to keep the church walks as clear of snow/ice as possible, but each of us must also do our part for safety by exercising caution and discretion. Here's to a safe winter season!

***All are welcome to a “Meet & Greet”
with Mr. Steve Rymer, Rochester City Administrator***

DATE: ***December 12, 2017***

TIME: ***6:30 - 8:00 p.m.***

***Social Hall
at First Presbyterian Church***

“God put this power to work in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.”

(Ephesians 1:20-21)

“As Presbyterian churches in the South and Middle Colonies proliferated under the revival, the need for more clergy made a theological school imperative. Pro-revival Presbyterian ministers in 1747 received a charter to start the College of New Jersey (i.e., later to be named Princeton) for college studies and training ministers. Several prominent leaders served as president of the new college. By the 1760s, the school needed a new president, and the trustees selected a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, John Witherspoon (1723-1794), to lead the fledgling school.

The spirit of colonial America captured Witherspoon, who had embraced a vision of representative government. He became politically involved as he witnessed the oppression of colonists by the British crown, believing their rights as Englishmen were being violated. In 1774, Witherspoon was part of the state convention in New Brunswick and soon was thrust headlong into the War of Independence.

His first political sermon, preached in May 1776, urged resistance to tyranny as obedience to God and encouraged listeners to trust in God to bring good out of evil. The published sermon was dedicated to John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress.

When the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, Witherspoon served as the only clergy delegate and signed the ***Declaration of Independence*** on July 4, 1776. Witherspoon also signed the ***Articles of Confederation***, helped ratify the ***Constitution***, served as a member of the New Jersey convention, and served on the Board of War and Board of Foreign Affairs.

It is more probable that the greater Presbyterian inspiration upon American government came through Witherspoon’s most prominent student, James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution” and fourth president of the United States. Witherspoon had taught his students about balanced political structure where misuse of power may be corrected. Largely through Madison’s influence as a chief architect of the ***U.S. Constitution***, the genius of the American republican democracy would include a complex system of checks and balances, preventing political power from ever resting in the hands of tyrannical few.”⁽¹⁾

Given the Presbyterian rich history of being involved in the political affairs at the national, state and local levels, it is vital that we, as concerned citizens, continue to hold true to our Presbyterian heritage. On December 12, all members of First Presbyterian Church and the Rochester community at large are welcome to meet and greet the new Rochester City Administrator: Mr Steve Rymer.

¹ “Scotland and the Birth of the United States” by Donald Fortson (Tabletalk Magazine [<https://tabletalkmagazine.com>]).