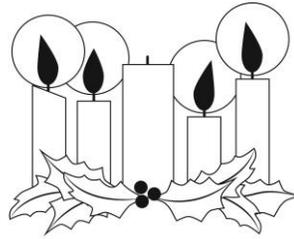


First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 23, 2018
Fourth 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.
- Enjoy coffee and fellowship in the social hall following the 8:30 service and in the atrium following the 11:00 service. Please use a blue mug so we can identify and greet you.

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

Gathering

Prelude Sans Day Carol/ The Holly and the Ivy arr. Eric Haas
Sussex Carol / I Saw Three Ships)
Recorder Ensemble
Elizabeth Dunn, Dwight Jennings, Cindy Kunzman, Ruth Saling, and Karen Sessler
The Friendly Beasts & Gentle Mary Laid Her Child arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Alleluia Ringers

*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 heart in prayer.*

Lighting the Advent Candle 8:30: Susanna Stone, Jake Wright, and Teddy Stone-Wright
11:00: Andrew, Nicole, Brynn Thoreson and Calista Younge

Advent Prayer

Advent Response 103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace (stanza 4) o-so-so
Come, hope of unity; O God of love; make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Greeting and Welcome

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

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

(8:30) Van Jacobsen
(11:00) Patricia Talen

Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

The Messiah is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

The Messiah is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

The Messiah is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

The Messiah is coming.

◆ Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

Call to Reconciliation with God (please be seated)

We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus Christ with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, let us pray.

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

God, our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Words of Life

Friends, God is for us and not against us. For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world – not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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) 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 Old Testament

Micah 5:2-5a

Anthem (8:30) A Maiden Most Gentle arr. Andrew Carter
Chancel Choir

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.
Ave, ave, ave Maria.
How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.
The archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation and Saviour of all.
Three kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare and marveled in awe at the babe in her care.
Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave.'
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Voluntary (11:00) What Child Is This GREENSLEEVES, arr. Eric Haas
Recorder Ensemble

Time for All Our Young Worshipers

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 Judy 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 Gospels Luke 1:39-55

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word, hymn 113 (refrain only) GLORIA

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Message *Twists and Turns* 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** by Ann Siddall

Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior, for he looks with favor upon us and sees our unrealized potential. In the tradition of Mary, and all who have said “yes” to God, we stand here today, to add our assent to theirs. Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed; we wonder if we are worthy, or capable, of following the calling. Like Mary, we have our questions and we will not be afraid to ask them. Like Mary, we will hear and ponder the assurance that God will empower us. Like Mary, we will strive to say – “Let it be with us according to your will.” To whatever God is inviting us at this time in our lives, and relying on God’s grace, we say “yes.”

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (using ‘debts’ and ‘debtors’)

Offertory

At the Offertory Christmas Pastorale Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)
Recorder Ensemble

◆ **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**

You deliver us, O God, from exile, separation, and despair into communion with each other, with you, and with your good news. We thank you for all that draws us close together, astounding us with lives transformed by gratitude. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as honor to your presence in our world; for the sake of those who stand in need and Jesus Christ, who saves us. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 84**

Creator of the Stars of Night

Sing to Hymn Tune 152

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

◆ **Benediction**

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

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

Postlude

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (PUER NOBIS)

Aaron David Miller

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.

In addition to the names printed December 2, we thank Richard and Janice Bennett, Ed and Frances Gomez, C. Michel and Mary Harper, Robert and Susan McClocklin, and Warren and Mary Potter for contributing to the Poinsettia Fund.





**Stewardship 2019:
Do all the good you can.
A Progress Report.**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to help us erase the shortfall in pledges for 2019! Extra pledge cards are at the entrances to the sanctuary and in the church office.

As of December 20 we have received 217 pledges for \$691,222. Combined with other projected income, including supplemental pledges, we currently have \$780,730 to work with for 2019. With a projected budget of \$821,000, this leave us \$40,270 short of what committees have requested to fund our church's staff and programs in the coming year. Thanks to everyone who has committed a supplemental pledge for next year. The are extra contribution forms at the welcome desk and in the office.

About Our Church

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Pastor	Susan K. Kruger, Office Administrator
Rev. Jay P. Rowland, Associate Pastor	Kathleen M. Kuisle, Calvin and Cherub Choirs
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music/Organist	Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Susanna L. Stone, Coordinator of Youth and Christian Education	Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager

Child Care staff: Esther Lebron, Margie Schaaf, Brenda Thorson

Security and custodial personnel:

Sally Evans, Vera Herr, Tami Rinn, Tyler Sczurek

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.)

*** 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!

Calendar for the week of December 23 – December 30 (and beyond)

SUNDAY – December 23 (Advent 4)

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

The **chancel flowers** are given for the Glory of God by Don and Barbara Cain in celebration of life.

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.

Sunday school classes through high school are cancelled so students can rehearse for the Christmas Pageant that will be presented on Christmas Eve at the 4 p.m. service.

Adult Education classes:

9:40 a.m.: *Current Events: Clipped from the papers* (lounge/E-207)

9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Study: "The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church"* (south fireside room/A-104)

Chancel Choir rehearses at 9:45 a.m.

All children and youth are invited to be a part of the pageant (and any out-of-town grandkids or relatives are welcome, too!). Children need not be regular Sunday School or choir attendees to participate in the pageant; the one requirement is that anyone participating in the Christmas Pageant must attend rehearsal today from 9:40 - 10:50 a.m.

The **Christmas Joy offering** will be dedicated today although your contribution will be gratefully accepted any time through January. 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 24 (Christmas Eve)

The church office will close at noon.

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

Child care will be offered at the 11 p.m. service only.

3:00 Cherub and Calvin Choirs and Joyous Praise warm up.

4:00 **Service of worship and Children's Pageant** with Calvin and Cherub Choirs, Joyous Praise handbell choir, and Sunday school children.

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

10:30 Prelude with handbells and organ

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

TUESDAY – December 25 (Christmas Day)

Merry Christmas!

No services will be held at the church.

The church will be closed.

WEDNESDAY – December 26

The church will be closed.

All Wednesday activities at the church are cancelled.

SUNDAY – December 30

One service of worship at 11 a.m. We welcome you to a special service of Christmas carols and liturgy on the first Sunday after Christmas. No Sunday school or choir rehearsals. Child care will be provided.

SUNDAY – January 6

Worship at 8:30 and 11 a.m.

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: Clipped from the papers* (lounge/E-207)

9:40 a.m.: *Kerygma Study: "The Jesus Movement and the World of the Early Church"* (south fireside room/A-104)

For Your Information

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.

Offering envelopes for 2019 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.

Pledge Statements. We will mail final statements for 2018 about January 9. To find out before then if you fulfilled your 2018 pledges, stop in or call the church office (282-1618). To be considered a charitable donation in 2018 we either need to receive your donation by December 31 or your envelope needs to be postmarked by December 31.

Each year our church activities are summarized in the "Annual Report to the Congregation." If you are responsible for writing a report, we need it in the church office by January 14. The best reports are those sent to Carol via e-mail or a Word attachment to an e-mail (evans.carol@FPCRochester.org).

Among the Church Family

Happy Birthday to Lynn Postier, who will celebrate her 91st birthday today, December 23.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Linda Tillotson, who died December 18. A memorial service will be held here on Saturday, January 5 at 11 a.m.

A note about our Advent hymns

During Advent, our first full hymn (92) and our closing hymn (84) are the same for each Sunday in Advent. Both these hymns are contemplative in nature, fitting for this season of preparation.