

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

Service for the Lord's Day
December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 A.M.

Welcome to worship

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

Gathering

Prelude Christmas Carol Trilogy Glenn L. Rudolph
incorporating "My Dancing Day," Coventry Carol, and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Greeting and Welcome

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

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Stender Family

Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing, Be our Guest this
Ad - vent day. Long - ing hearts watch ea - ger - ly
for Je - sus, who comes in peace.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, we have been watching and waiting.

Our hearts and homes are ready for you, and we want your light to shine in us so others may see your gifts of love, hope, joy, and peace. May the peace we receive in you surpass all understanding. Come, Lord Jesus, be with us today and always. Amen.

◆ **Hymn 94**

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

JEFFERSON

◆ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

Call to Reconciliation

Sarah Stender

*Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures
from generation to generation.*

Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover
that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear
your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in
love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives
may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Kyrie (GTG 91, adapt.)

COME EMMANUEL

Come, Lord, come grant us mercy.
Come, Lord, have mercy.

Words of Life

*Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting. Amen.*

◆ Canticle of Praise (GTG 109, adapt.)

FOREST GREEN

Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free;
who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction

Presentation

Professions of Intent and Faith

Blessing of the Water

Baptism

Welcome

George James Andre Ouellette is now received into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. Through baptism God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. People of this congregation, I charge you to nurture and support George, that he and all baptized children may become faithful disciples.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome George and all children into Christ's church. We promise to love, encourage, support and share the gospel with all children that they may know and follow Christ.

The peace of God be with you

And also with you.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength,
**by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the
glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Anthem

Resonet in Laudibus

14th c. German Carol, arr. Dale Wood

Long ago and far away heaven rang with joy today,
Jesus in the manger lay, in Bethlehem upon a Christmas morning.

*He came among us at Christmastide, in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide love's diadem:
Jesus, Jesus, Lo, He comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us.*

Shepherds heard and wondered why angels sang up in the sky "Glory be to God Most High,"
in Bethlehem upon a Christmas morning.

Glory, honor, laud and praise be to God for endless days for the Babe his love displays,
in Bethlehem upon a Christmas morning.

Cherub, Calvin and Chancel Choirs

Reading from the Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

On the Brink of Christmas

Rev. T.J. Parlette

Our Response

◆ **Hymn 99**

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

◆ **Affirmation of Faith**

by Rev. Rebecca F. Harrison

We are an Advent people, a people of hope.

For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait.

We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed.

Even so, we are not a naive people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be.

**And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Prelude on "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

HUMILITY, arr. Raymond Haan

◆ **Offertory Response** (GTG 84, stanza 4)

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men." The melody is simple and homophonic, with a final cadence on the word "Amen".

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sending

◆ **Hymn 140**

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

◆ **Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733

J.S. Bach

Ellis Workman, trumpet, cornet

The flowers are given in loving memory Robert Groover
by Ann Groover and family.

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First Presbyterian Church

Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...
Week of December 24m, 2023



Annual Reports to the Congregation

Each year our church activities are summarized in the *Annual Reports to the Congregation*. The compilation of these reports will be available on January 21. If you are responsible for writing a report on behalf of your committee or group, please e-mail it to Cindy.Kunzman@fpcrochester.org by January 15.

Deacons Funds Designated for the Coming Year



Each year on Christmas Eve, we collect an offering to support the work of our Board of Deacons. This year, the monies will remain in the Deacon's Fund to assist with our own local projects.

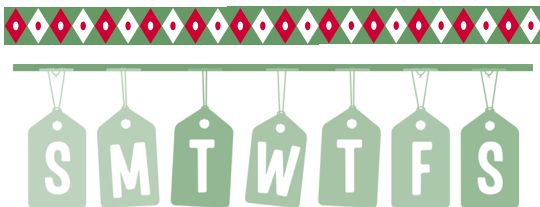


Stewardship 2024

Campaign Goal:
\$870,000

Of our 315 giving units (individuals, couples and/or families), as of December 21 we have received 142 pledge cards totaling \$520,573. Thank you to everyone who has already pledged. You may easily submit your pledge by emailing Cindy (office@fpcrochester.org) and indicating the amount of your pledge for 2024.

Jeremy Braun, Stewardship Committee



Moving through Advent:

- ◆ **Worship—Advent 4**
Sunday, December 24 @ 10 a.m. *Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
Saturday, December 24 @ 4 & 11 p.m. *Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Monday, December 25**
Have a Blessed Christmas!
- ◆ **Worship—First Sunday of Christmas**
Sunday, December 31 @ 10:00 A.m. *Sanctuary*
- ◆ **Monday, January 1**
Happy New Year!



More information available in the weekly *Good News* email and on the "Marking Our Journey Together" bulletin board.

First Presbyterian Church * 512 3rd St SW * Rochester, MN 55902 * (507) 282-1618 * office@fpcrochester.org * www.fpcrochester.org

Church



Family

Celebrating with some of our CHURCH FAMILY

Fabian and Nadine Luna invite you to celebrate Nadine's retirement from the Mayo Clinic AND help send them off on their new adventure as they are moving to Tennessee!

**Friday, December 29
4-9 p.m.**

Historic Hubbell House
502 North Main St—Mantorville

Holiday Office & Building Hours

Please note that we have flexible building hours between December 26–28. If you have not made prior arrangements, you might not find anyone there for access.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

During the Advent Season, we collect money to support the Christmas Joy Offering. Our gifts support leaders in our Church and world — past, present and future. Please indicate "Christmas Joy" in the memo line on your check or use one of the special envelopes in the pew rack.

Celebrating ...

Welcome, Baby

Congratulations
to **Tom and Laurie Drake**
on the birth of their granddaughter,
Gracia Elizabeth Drake,
on December 14.
She is the daughter of
Mark and Britt Drake.

Birthdays:

- 24** Jean Nuszloch
- 25** Brent Buchan & Kinley Folkens
- 26** Judy Hunter & Cindy Sannes
- 27** Cody Duncan & Nathan Larson
- 28** Madeline Johnson, Anna Larson, Rosie Lund & Bruce Walk
- 29** Debbie Bauch, Braeden Hoult, Mark Keller & Tom Sorenson
- 30** Paul Herr
- 31** Al Schuetz

Anniversaries:

- 26** Larry & Wendy Shannon
Jay & Britta Youmans
- 29** Tom Steen & Carol Cook
- 30** Tom & Connie Smyrk

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor	Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist	Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus	Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager	Paul Herr, Security
Jesse Copley, Custodian	Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host	

Sunday worship in-person at 8:30 & 11am, and livestreamed on YouTube at 11am;
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

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*First Presbyterian Church is an
inclusive community celebrating God with:
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love*

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