

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(In preparation for worship, please silence all mobile devices.)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mindy Douglas

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose

Thomas Keesucker

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

People: **Lift every valley; lift every voice.**

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

***HYMN NO. 88** vv. 1,5,6,7

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

***CONFESSION OF SIN**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Cleansing God,

we hear the call to repentance,

but we struggle to respond.

A voice tells us to turn around,

but we prefer our own ways.

You seek to purify us in love,

but we constantly elude your searching hand.

Our sin leads us in other directions,

away from you, away from life.

Look with mercy upon us.

Clear a place within us

so that something new might be born,

something that might return us

to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession

Declaration of Pardon

***THE PEACE**

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

David and Marie Sappenfield

Leader: As we light our second Advent candle,

People: **we pray for the holy peace of God.**

Leader: Come now, child of Mary.

All: **Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

Kerry Holbrook

*Those who are able, please stand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God of hope, who never lets us go, draw near to us in these ancient words. By your Holy Spirit may we be filled, lifted up, and leveled as you prepare in our hearts the path of your coming. Amen.**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

Cris Rivera

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

(Pew Bible, OT Page 889)

People: **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6

(Pew Bible, NT Page 60)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"The Great Leveler"

Mindy Douglas

*HYMN NO. 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Aberystwyth

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

John Weicher

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus,
whose faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity.
Jesus gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be a servant
for the reconciliation of the world.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

John Weicher

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

John Weicher

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Leader: Let us pray.

All: **God, our Creator, we return to you thanks for life and breath and for your gifts of strength and skill, of money and wisdom, of hope and love. Use our tangible gratitude to extend our sharing of the gospel, until you bring to completion the good work you have begun in us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

John Weicher

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new. With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

All:

Sanctus

Hymn No. 572

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. Chord symbols are provided above the notes: Bm7, Em, F, Am, Dsus, D, G, C, D7, G, G7, Am, G, Cmaj7, G, Dsus, D, C, Am7, D7, Em, C, Am, Dsus, D7, G, Em, F, Dm7, G.

Leader: We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, this bread, this cup, these people, Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord. Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord! Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Mitzi Leshner-Thomas/John Weicher

***THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

(All the bread is gluten free. The elements were prepared in a gluten-free area.)

ANTHEM*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius

HYMN NO. 347*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Picardy

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

John Weicher

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.**All:** God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen***SENDING HYMN NO. 106***Prepare the Way, O Zion**Bereden Väg för Herran****CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Mindy Douglas

POSTLUDEPrepare the Way, O Zion*

Paul Manz

**Welcome! Let us know you have joined us for worship by scanning this QR code.**

First Presbyterian Church welcomes all who worship with us. We honor and celebrate the human diversity and unity that God gives us in Christ. We welcome individuals of every age, race, nationality, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, and economic circumstance to participate fully in the life of the church. On November 28, 100 joined us for in-person worship and 43 households tuned in to watch live-streamed broadcast.

The *sanctuary table* upon which the Advent Wreath sits was made by **George Danser** and given to the church by him and his wife, **Jean Cary**. George has drawn design features from our communion table and used oak removed from the sanctuary during our renovation and wood from a tree in their backyard that Jean saw get hit by lightning some years ago.

Advent paraments: FPC commissioned **Laurie Wohl** to design and create two paraments to be hung from the pulpit and lectern during Lent and Advent. Wohl is an internationally known fiber-artist who exhibited her work at the church in spring of 2012. The text on the Advent parament hanging from the pulpit, in Hebrew and English, is from Isaiah 12:3: “*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*” The text on the lectern parament is from Luke 1:78-79: “*The dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to guide our feet into the way of peace.*” We are grateful that the bequest of **Anne ‘St. Clair’ Williams** made it possible to enhance our sanctuary with these beautiful works of art.

The Lord’s Prayer: One of the hallmarks of Reformed worship has been liturgy in the vernacular—in the common language of the people of God. Many continue to use the language of another era (the Tudor dynasty) when praying the prayer Jesus taught. We hope that using this ecumenical version, new generations will learn and understand this prayer in a fresh way. Of course, you may pray in the words closest to your heart, be the words debts or trespasses.

Many thanks to **John Fricks**, **Jody Maxwell**, **JL Klinck** and **Keith Rokoske** for their technical assistance with our live broadcasts of worship on Sunday mornings.

Portions of *today’s worship text* were reprinted from **Call to Worship 2021-2022 Year C, Feasting on the Word, Advent Companion**.

Hearing Assistance Receivers are available for use during worship from the audio console located at the rear of the sanctuary. Before you leave the sanctuary, please turn off the receiver and place it in the specially marked receptacle or return to an usher.

Childcare: A staffed nursery and children’s playroom are available on the second floor of the Christian education building for use during worship.

Worship activity bags are available in the foyer for children to use during worship.

Large print worship bulletins along with *children's worship / activity bulletins* are available in the foyer.

Restrooms are located off the narthex (to the left and right as you exit the rear of the sanctuary), on the second floor of the Christian education building, and on the first and second floors of the church house.

Masks are still required: The congregation will continue to be masked when inside as an act of generous hospitality to children who cannot yet be vaccinated and transplant recipients and others on medication that reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

Worship Flowers for 2022: The signup chart and instructions for donors are now available online. Use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094EA4AD2DA46-flowers2> to sign up to donate flowers for worship in 2022.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Thank you to everyone who returned their pledge forms, prepaid their 2022 pledges, and shared their personal stories during this fall's Stewardship Season. We are so blessed to be on this journey together to create justice and joy in the heart of Durham. If you haven't turned in your pledge, you can mail it in or complete the process online. **So far, we have received pledges representing 73% of our goal!** You may contact **Tom Bloom** (919-682-5511 x 216) if you have questions about the pledging process.

~ Our Joys and Concerns ~

Condolences: The love and concern of the congregation are extended to:

Family of Lesley Curtis upon the death of her aunt *Carolyn O'Toole*.

Concerns:

Conrad Carter Paul Cornsweet Kerry Holbrook

Mimi Cummings, mother of Drew Cummings; Jim Leshner, father of Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Care Communities:

Dubose Center at The Cedars, Chapel Hill: *Arthur Clark*

Durham Ridge Assisted Living: *Phillip Herndon*

Hillcrest Convalescent Center: *Julian Boswell, Jim Wolfe*

Walter Chambliss, father of Will Chambliss

Roger Kalthoff, husband of Jane Williams

Family and Friends of the Congregation:

Carolyn Bonner, wife of Deborah Momsen-Hudson's coworker Al Bonner

Greer & Jenn Brown, friends of Logan Tice

Jim Brown, father of Chris Brown

John Carter, brother of Conrad Carter

Flora Estrella, a relative of Beth Stringfield and Cris Rivera

Lynn Everett, mother of Luke and Rob Everett

Linda Foster Momsen, mother of Deborah Momsen-Hudson

Grace, Chris James' great-niece

Chris Irwin, cousin of Linda Barenchi

Vivian Mast, friend of Josh Walters

Aaron Pritchard, friend of Kathy Parkins

Ty, Laurel, Joe, & Cheli Seddon, family of Martha Seddon, former FPC Parish Administrator

Richard Smith, husband of Laura Casteel's co-worker

Heath Tuttle, son of Chris & Carrie Tuttle

Jim Vacca, father of Jamie Chambliss

Deb Walsh, friend of Celia Dickerson

Jean Vollrath, friend of Jean Cary

John Wakefield, cousin of Vernon Neece

Calling All Kids (and their grownups)

Active Advent Faith Formation

On **Sundays, December 12 and December 19**, kids and interested adults will gather all together outside between 10:00 and 10:45 a.m. for faith formation! We will make videos acting out the Christmas story for our Christmas Eve pageant presentation. Maybe you want to be an angel, a shepherd, Mary, or Joseph? Come one, come all! We have plenty of costumes.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 12

9:45 a.m. – Faith Formation for Adults, Confirmands, and Youth

10:00 a.m. – Active Advent Faith Formation for Children

11:00 a.m. – Worship

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 19

9:45 a.m. – Faith Formation for Adults, Confirmands, and Youth

10:00 a.m. – Active Advent Faith Formation for Children


11:00 a.m. – A Service of Lessons and Carols.

The PC(USA) *Joy Gift Offering* will also be received. The Joy Gift Offering supports financial assistance programs of the Board of Pensions and PC(USA) racial ethnic schools and colleges. Online and text-giving are other ways to give to the Joy Gift Offering

Christmas Eve Worship – Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Communion and Candlelight Service (in the sanctuary)

The story of the birth of the Christ Child is celebrated in a pageant video, and in word and song, and the service concludes with Communion by candlelight. An offering will be received to support Welcome Baby (Durham).



O Holy Night
Christmas music for choir

Vocal Arts Ensemble
Rodney Wynkoop, conductor

Friday, December 10, 2021
7:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church
305 East Main Street, Durham

Free admission
919-660-3300 www.vocalartsensemble.org



JOIN US
SATURDAY, 12/18
TO WATCH THE
**Durham
Christmas
Parade**

The fun begins at 11am on the steps of FPC.
Hot chocolate provided.
BYOBAM: Bring your own blanket and mug.



Caroling and Sweet/Savory Treats

On **Sunday, December 19**, join us for an evening of caroling, fellowship, and a sweet/savory exchange.

Bring sweet or savory treats, individually packaged to share/exchange.

At **4:00 p.m.** we'll gather in the courtyard to share our favorite carols.

At **4:30 p.m.** we'll share some caroling with our neighbors.

(If you don't feel comfortable walking to nearby Urban Ministries or Families Moving Forward, you're invited to the fellowship hall where we'll be getting ready for the sweet/savory exchange.)

At **5:00 p.m.** we'll all gather in the fellowship hall to exchange goodies and share favorite Christmas memories or traditions.

At this time, outside & distanced, we may sing without our masks; for all indoor gathering we will continue to mask.

Two Part-time Positions Open at FPC

NOTE: Church members and active friends of the congregation are not eligible to apply.

FPC is looking for a part-time, non-exempt **Audio-Visual Technical Director of Worship Production**. The position is 10 hours a week, including Sunday mornings. First Presbyterian Church the position pays a minimum of \$16.92 an hour which is negotiable. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past or current employers) to this email address: **AVTechnical@firstpres-durham.org**.

FPC is also looking for a **custodian for Sunday mornings** (building and grounds preparation, security, and event set-up and clean-up). The position is 5 hours a Week. Pays \$16.92 an hour. Hours are approximately 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with some flexibility required. A criminal background check will be conducted. A full job description is available from the church office. If interested, please send application letter and résumé (including contact information for two references, preferably from the two immediate past employers) to this email address: **sunday-sexton@firstpres-durham.org**.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE COMING SOON!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Is your photo missing, or would you like to change your photo in the latest FPC pictorial directory? Has your address, email, or phone number changed since July 2021? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, please submit your photo and/or updated contact information through the Church Life App or email the photo or updated contact information to **Sybil King** in the church office at: **s.king@firstpres-durham.org**. The deadline is **Monday, December 6**. An updated directory will be made available to members again in early 2022.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

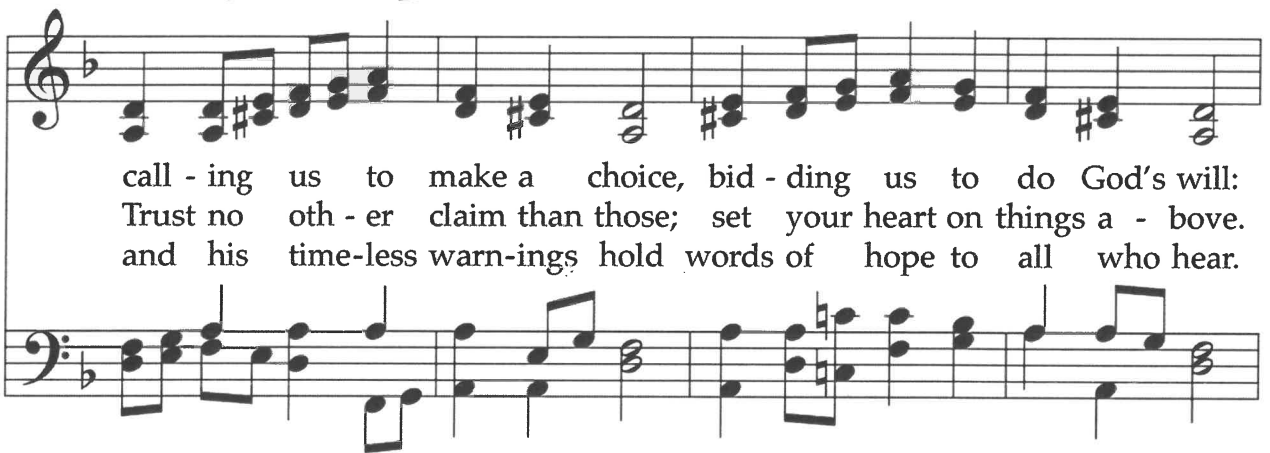
6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

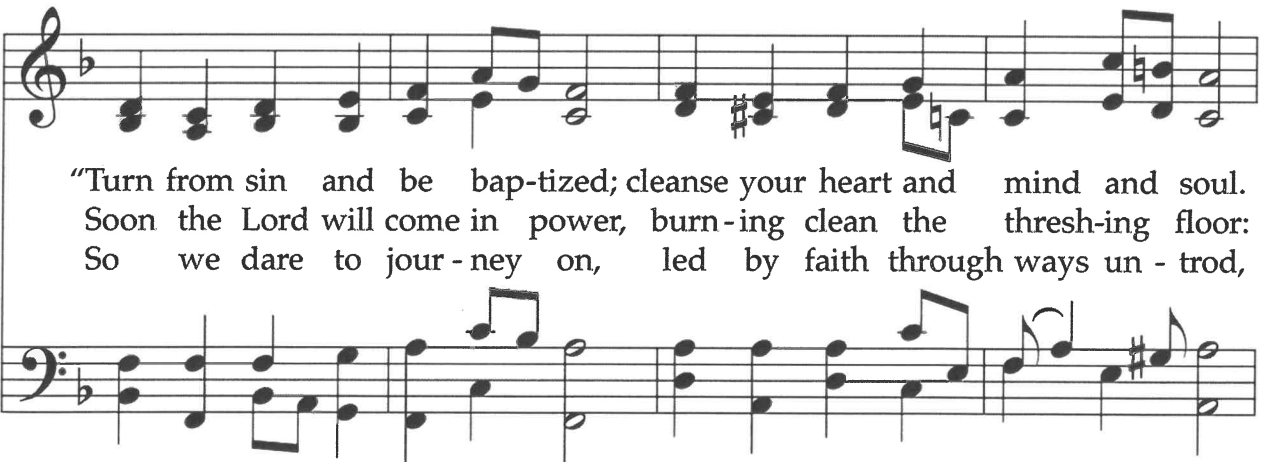
163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice



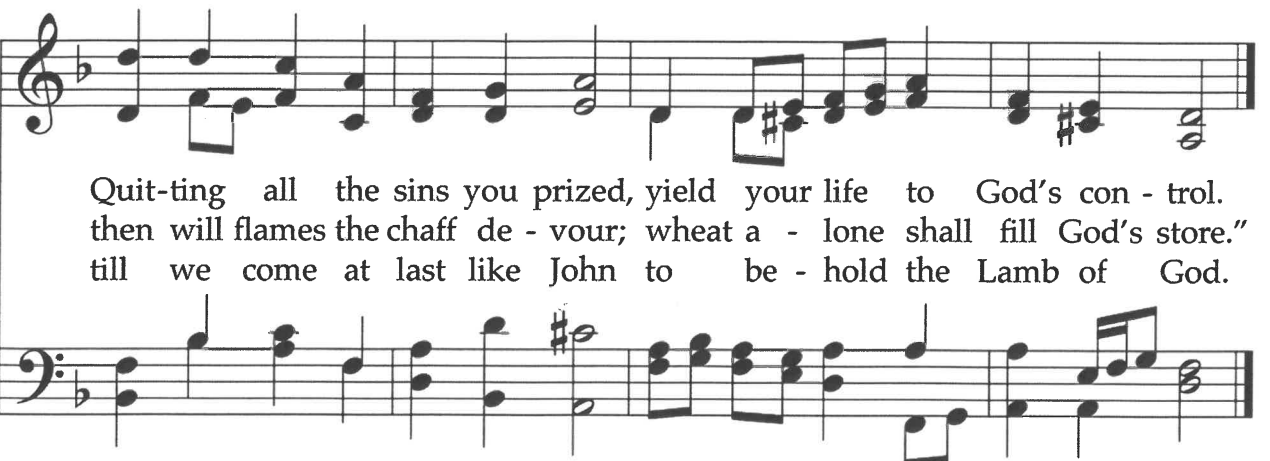
1 Wild and lone the proph-et's voice ech-oes through the des - ert still,
2 "Bear the fruit re - pen-tance sows: lives of jus - tice, truth, and love.
3 With such preach-ing, stark and bold, John pro-claimed sal - va - tion near,



call - ing us to make a choice, bid - ding us to do God's will:
Trust no oth - er claim than those; set your heart on things a - bove.
and his time-less warn-ings hold words of hope to all who hear.



"Turn from sin and be bap-tized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burn-ing clean the thresh-ing floor:
So we dare to jour-ney on, led by faith through ways un - trod,



Quit-ting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's con - trol.
then will flames the chaff de - vour; wheat a - lone shall fill God's store."
till we come at last like John to be - hold the Lamb of God.

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

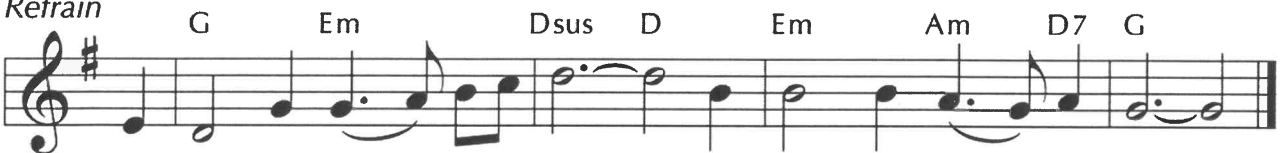


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Week at a Glance!

Later Today	Monday, December 6	Tuesday, December 7	Wednesday, December 8
4:00 PM-5:00 PM MS Youth Group 5:00 PM-5:30 PM Combined Youth Group 5:30 PM-6:30 PM HS Youth Group 8:00 PM-9:30 PM Meaning in the Middle **See description below (Zoom)	10:30 AM – 12PM PW Circle & Bible Study 1:00 PM Worship Planning 2:00 PM Program Staff Meeting 7:00 PM CE Leadership Planning	6:15-7:15 PM <i>INSPIRE</i> Book Study Zoom ID: 85812997340 7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir	11:00 AM-12 PM <i>INSPIRE</i> Book Study Zoom ID: 85812997340 7:00-8:15 PM Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 9	Saturday, December 11	Sunday, December 12 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	
Friday, December 10	8:30-10:30 AM Youth at Urban Ministries	9:45 AM Faith Formation Classes for Adults, Confirmants, and Middle Schoolers 10:00 AM Active Advent Faith Formation for Children (and interested adults) 11:00 AM Worship 8:00 PM Meaning in the Middle Fellowship (Zoom)	

**** Meaning in the Middle (M'nMs)**(formally known as Scratch) is a Sunday evening online Faith formation discussion community of FPC. We meet to share the ups and downs of our lives and discuss a (very) short reading about faith. We talk about how to find God and meaning in the middle of wherever we are: as Christians, as professionals, as friends and family, as parents, as middle-of-life adults (whatever that circumstance might look like for you). We also gather for monthly picnics or potlucks and have an annual retreat for planning and fellowship.

~Church Staff~

Tom Bloom, Business Administrator
Lenore Champion, Children's Ministry Director
Vernon Cooper, Sexton
Mindy Douglas, Pastor/Head of Staff
Susan Dunlap, Parish Associate
Joseph Harvard, Pastor Emeritus



Sybil King, Administrative Assistant
Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Associate Pastor
Valerie McMillian, Parish Administrator
Kathy Parkins, Minister of Music
John Weicher, Associate Pastor

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