

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 3, 2017
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Bryan, Texas

GATHERING

GREETINGS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

(Please take a moment to sign the fellowship folder and pass it to your neighbor. If you are seeking a church home, please read the announcement in the insert related to Christian discipleship & church membership.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers, Wake)
(See Hymn No. 349 for text.)

J.S. Bach

OPENING SENTENCES AND PRAYER OF PRAISE

adapted from Galatians 5:5,22,25

The Apostle Paul teaches,

Through God's Spirit, by faith, we wait expectantly for the hope of righteousness.

And the fruits of God's Spirit are:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – all of which demonstrate the hope of righteousness made possible from trusting life to God's shaping guidance.

If we live by God's Spirit,

Others will know us as those who journey by God's Spirit with hope beyond ourselves.

Gather up our yearnings and our prayers of every kind, O God, receiving us, strengthening us, and growing us in grace for faithful serving in your name every day, everywhere. Hallelujah!

* HYMN NO. 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

* *Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.*

* CALL TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

Praying together, let us confess to God our failings and wanderings.

Blessed One, we have sinned as we have overlooked the redeeming love of which you are the source. We have failed both to test and to invest in the strength of your gifts of healing and transformation in life. Forgive us; and be at work to change us by grace for trusting you beyond what we can see, so that we, with others, continually sense, celebrate and serve you with gratitude and steadfastness in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ . . .
(We pray in silence.)

Hear, trust, proclaim, and share with others the heart of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory Be to The Father

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let There Be Peace on Earth

S. Miller and J. Jackson

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 606

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE WORD

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME

(Child care is available as early as 9:20am for infants in Room 108. While children are encouraged to remain for the entire worship service, parents may take toddlers and preschoolers to Room 103 of the 31st St. hallway for supervised activities during the remainder of the worship service. Pagers are available.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 29:4-14

Pew Bible, O. T., p.731

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(See Hymn No. 82 for text and music.)

HYFRYDOL

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Waiting in Hope: An Exclusive Christmas? Or a Jeremiah-Jesus Christmas?

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed (from the 4th Century)

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 Spirit, 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 living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

* HYMN NO. 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND SCRIPTURAL WORDS AT TABLE

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BREAKING, POURING, AND SERVING

(When serving the bread, say to the receiver, "The body of Christ broken for you." When serving the juice, say to the receiver, "The cup of salvation poured for you." All may partake of the bread upon receiving it. Please hold the cup until all are served, and we will partake together.)

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

SENDING

* HYMN NO. 104 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

* DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

May God be gracious unto you. May God's face shine upon you and light your path in life.

May the God of unmatched hope keep us in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and keep us faithful always for serving God's people near and far. Hallelujah!

* POSTLUDE Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates arr. L. Smith
(See Hymn No. 93 for text.)

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NEW MEMBERS may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder. You may also call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote (tfoote@fpcbryan.org). He will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

At the conclusion of worship today, Rev. Foote will be in the Narthex.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Worship clipboards with lectionary related activity sheets are available on the tables in the Narthex and also the hallway leading to the office. For those younger than 5, a loving childcare staff is available in the nursery. A pager system is provided to keep you in touch, should you be needed during the service. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker. **LARGE PRINT HYMN BINDERS** are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. **ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the narthex. Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today.



WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

LITURGISTS

Eric Peterson

ADVENT

CANDLELIGHTERS

The Cochrane Family –
Blayne, Rachel, & Rusty

COMMUNION SERVERS

Eileen Peters; Beverly Spencer;
BJ Hendler; Scott Reynolds;
Alice Hickerson; Ernie Wright

USHER CAPTAIN

Andrew Weichert

USHERS & GREETERS

Catherine Ezzell; Kathy Goepfinger;
Linda Witherite; Dick Witherite

CHANCEL FLOWERS

In honor of
Bob Baker on his 90th birthday
by
Mary Ann Baker

MUSICIANS

Steve Gentry, *Pianist*
Chancel Choir
David Kipp,
Director of Music Ministries

LITURGICAL BANNERS

Organ side: Star; Trinity

Advent Banner
by
Becky Alter

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 3

"STOCK THE PANTRY" SUNDAY

9:20am Sunday Church School-VC *
10:45am Worship (with Lord's Supper)-S*
2:00pm Youth (GR 7-12) go to the Christmas Parade-
meet in parking lot next to N Rosemary Dr, Bryan
5:30pm Session Stated Meeting-L

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

2:00pm Circle III-P

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

10:15am Staff Meeting-L
5:30pm The Bryan Group of AA-13
7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal-BR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:00am Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team-13
5:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S
6:00pm Soup & Salad Supper-CCF
6:40pm "Blue Christmas" (A Service of Remembrance):
Tired of Waiting-FH
6:40pm Youth attend "Blue Christmas"-FH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30am Men's Breakfast-CCF
12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE (news from Dec 21 - Jan 17, 2018)
11:30am Prime Time (Older Adults) Lunch-L/P

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

6:00pm Second Friday Fellowship-Chicken Oil Co, Bryan

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:30am Youth depart for Brazos Church Pantry-meet in church parking lot

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 10

9:20am Sunday Church School-VC * 10:45am Worship-S*
3:30pm All-church Caroling & Refreshments-meet on the Patio
6:00pm Circle VII-13

First Presbyterian Church | 1100 Carter Creek Parkway | Bryan, Texas 77802

PH. 979.823.8073 | FAX. 979.822.7063 | Website: www.fpcbryan.org | Email: fpc@fpcbryan.org

Find "First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas" on FACEBOOK

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

STILL CREEK ACADEMY is in need of donations of paper goods. With this **PAPER GOODS DRIVE**, the Academy is asking for paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper. Still Creek Christian Academy is a private, K-12 Christian boarding school situated on almost 200 acres in the Brazos Valley in Bryan. The Academy is the heartbeat of Still Creek Ranch and their student base consists of those who live onsite as well as children from the community. These donations go a long way in helping The Academy have essential items. A marked container to receive your donations will be in the Patio through Friday, December 8.

Once again, FPC will have the opportunity to share in providing a wonderful Christmas for families in Bryan-College Station through **THE SALVATION ARMY** – giving Christmas gifts to over 800 local families (2,000+ children). Starting Monday, November 20, the **ANGEL TREE** will be in the Patio with 40 angels hung on the tree which friends can “adopt” and purchase gifts for their “angel.” The Angel ornaments on the tree provide the name, sizes, and wish list to brighten a child’s Christmas. Pick up your “angel’s” name and enjoy the experience of Christmas shopping at its best! Place your gifts for your “angel” around the tree in the Patio by Friday, December 8. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

STILL TELLING THE STORY

The history of First Presbyterian Church will be celebrated throughout 2018 while we focus on a new era in the life of the church. Please email your favorite stories and memories to the church office, office@fpcbryan.org.

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE



On **Wednesday, December 6**, all are invited to Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm for a soup & salad supper followed by “**Blue Christmas**” – **A Service of Remembrance** for loved ones lost to us or separated from us by death, estrangement, divorce, or other life circumstances. Through sharing and hearing

prayers, scripture, and music that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle, for those who wait for God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. The evening is open to all who are facing the holidays without loved ones or know someone who is.

BRINGING JOY TO THE FPC FAMILY



Please join us with your hearts and voices for **an evening of caroling** to some of our church members as we gather to sing carols and distribute poinsettias. Invite others to join you in singing—the more the merrier! We’ll warm up our voices on the Patio on **Sunday, December 10**, at 3:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. At 4:00pm, we’ll depart for the various locations to spread Christ’s love in song — “. . . Christ the Savior is born.”

The deadline for the **December** issue of the newsletter, The Chimes (incl. the January 2018 Calendar), is Thursday, December 7, and will be distributed on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13.**

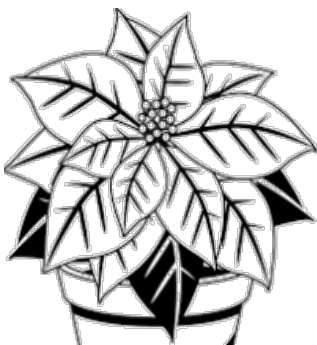
This issue will cover news from December 21 thru January 17, 2018.

For the newsletter, announcements, upcoming bulletins, and updates, visit the church website: www.fpcbryan.org.

Stay connected with others in this community of faith at **CHURCH UPDATES**, FPC-Bryan’s online tool for church-related announcements, needs, and prayers.

Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>.

POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM



During Advent, **poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 10.** Later that day, these poinsettias will be delivered to some of our church members during caroling. Poinsettias will again grace our worship space on **December 17 and Christmas Eve.**

Name _____

No. of Plants _____ Amount (\$18 per plant) _____

Phone _____ Paid _____

DESIGNATION

(in Honor of)

(in Memory of)

(Other)

You may place your order and/or payment in the offering plate today or mail it to the church office by **Wednesday, December 13.**