

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship



Rick brings groceries from Room 12 on Tuesday & Thursday mornings.

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight.

--Philippians 1:9

First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN SMITH

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MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST; AMY GANO, BELLS

SEMINARY INTERN: CADEN ECKERT

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being **livestreamed** and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, January 2nd.

SCRIPTURE Baruch 5:1-5

(Baruch is a text that is not included in the Protestant canonical Biblical texts. It is a poetic and historic sacred text which we read today as we might read a poem or reflection.)

Take off your mourning clothes
and oppression, Jerusalem!

Dress yourself in the dignity
of God's glory forever.

Wrap the justice that comes from God around yourself like a robe.

Place the eternal one's glory
on your head like a crown.

God will show your brilliance everywhere under heaven.

God will give you this name
by which to be called forever:
The Peace That Comes from Justice,
The Honor That Comes
from Reverence for God!

Get up, Jerusalem!

Stand on the high place,
and look around to the east!

See your children gathered
from the west to the east

by the holy one's word,
as they rejoice that God has remembered them.

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:9-11

This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✠ **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Making Room: Peace

Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice

ANTHEM

*Prepare Thyself, Zion*¹

J. S. Bach

¹ TEXT by Rev. J. Troutbeck DD, Music by J. S. Bach, arr. Douglas E. Wagner. © 1977, Harold Flammer Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of ONELICENSE # A706254.

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Imagining the Innkeeper: Stories of Hospitality

(We invite you to respond to God's Word. We offer our gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world. Baskets for your offering are near the exit. We are not yet passing plates. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

✠ **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

✠ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

✠ **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

James C. Huffstutler

✠ **Holy, holy, Lord Almighty, God of power and might.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory,

Glory in the highest!

Blessed! Blessed!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,

hosanna in the highest.

The PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and OUR 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.

The PRAYER of CONSECRATION

The WORDS of INSTITUTION

SHARING of the BREAD and CUP

The cup is non-alcoholic. Gluten free option is available and marked. Please come forward by the center aisle, take a communion packet, and return to your seat by the side aisle. After everyone has returned, we will all receive together.

There is a rover to bring you elements if you prefer to remain seated. When the service is finished, please gather the remains of the packets and deposit them in the box as you leave.

SUNG PRAYERS

As we go forward to pick up the bread and cup, and as we wait and pray before and after, we sing our prayers together. These refrains will be sung over and over as we make them our own prayers.

*Wait for the Lord*²

Jacques Berthier

- ✘ Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart!

*Come and Fill*³

Jacques Berthier

- ✘ Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia!

WE RECEIVE TOGETHER

PRAYER after COMMUNION

Has everyone been fed?

- ✘ **No, not everyone. There are people in our community who do not have enough food. Others have plenty of food but hunger for love and community.**

Then this shall be our mission. We will extend the welcome of this table to our neighbors. We will share what we have with those in need. We will include others into our community just as Christ has included us.

✘ **Amen.**

*REFRAIN

*Wait for the Lord*²

Jacques Berthier

- ✘ Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, be strong take heart!

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***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***BLESSING and BENEDICTION**

May God's Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart.
May Jesus's humble first dwelling
remind you he is here.
And may the Spirit lead us into
possibility and hospitality we can't yet imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church.
Amen.

POSTLUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* J. Brahms (1833-1897)
(For health reasons we are not greeting at the door)

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livestreamed with permission.
Prayer poem, "Counting Chairs," on cover by John van de Laar
"Hope Waits" by Amanda Udis-Kessler, used with permission.*

GREETERS: Gill & Jane Snyder

USHERS: David Grindahl, *Lead Usher*

Dave Thomas, Rick Rodriguez, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEER: Dan Direen

VIDEO ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATOR: Merry Beth Grindahl

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Alexia Aguilar, Ariana Aceves, Itzel Aguilar

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Dana Babb, George Biddlecombe, Tommie Ann Freeman

Elders: Margaret Doane, Stephanie Fletcher, Melodee Kistner

Deacons: Robin Edwards, Marianna Fowles, Martha Pinckney

This Weeks' Celebrations

Dec 5 Bobbie Terrell
 Curtiss & Rebecca Allen

Dec 6 Bill McIntosh

Dec 7 Zienna Long

Dec 9 Maddie Ramirez

Dec 11 Christi Showman Farrar
 Deagan Belle

Come Christmas Caroling! On **Sunday, December 12**, you are invited to join our youth in Christmas caroling to our homebound members. Meet in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. Questions? Contact Mary Bolaños.

Leonard Scholarship Applications Leonard Scholarship applications for fall 2021-2022 are available in the church office and on the church website. **<https://www.fpcsb.net/leonard>** All applications must be in the church office no later than Feb. 28, 2022. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage. Lksavage3@gmail.com

News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Music Box

When revisiting the Christmas story, folks living almost two thousand years ago asked many of the same questions we do. Such as -- don't we want to know more about the Magi? Traditions have grown up adding to the details in the Gospels: there were three of them (the Gospels don't say how many, only that they brought three different gifts) and have given them names (Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

Folks in ancient times had their own stories about the Magi, quite different from ours. One can be found in a text called "The Revelation of the Magi", purportedly written by the Magi themselves. (Nobody believes this, but it's still a fun read!) Scholars think it was written in the 3rd century, and our lone surviving copy of it is in Syriac, housed in the archives of the Vatican.

According to this text, the Magi were an ancient order of mystics residing in a land called "Shir," located at the extreme eastern edge of the inhabited world. They are descendants of Adam's son Seth, who received a prophecy from his father Adam about the coming of a star that would signify the birth of God in human form. This prophecy is written down by Seth in the world's first book, and is transmitted through the generations by his offspring, the Magi. In expectation of the star's coming, every month the Magi immerse themselves in a sacred spring, ascend their country's most sacred mountain (the "Mountain of Victories"), pray to God in silence, and enter a cave (the "Cave of Treasures of Hidden Mysteries") atop the mountain to read Seth's prophecies. Generations of Magi have done this for millennia, waiting for the prophecy to be fulfilled.

Then, one day, their wait is over. Tune in next week for what happens next!

--William Zeitler

A Poem

“Counting Chairs”

by John van de Laar

We love counting chairs, Jesus
 and measuring the size of your table;
We check out each seat,
 trying to work out who gets to sit where,
 and which seats are the best;
We check out the people around us—our competition!
 and develop our strategy to make sure
 we get the best seat possible;
We put ourselves in your place,
 deciding who, in our opinion, deserves a seat
 and who doesn't.

But then you arrive,
 and suddenly the table seems bigger
 than we could ever imagine,
 there are more chairs than we can count,
 and you are throwing your arms around people
 that we would never allow to sit with us.
And the feast! What a spread!
 There is food in abundance,
 and wine flowing so freely!

The scarcity we believed was everywhere
 is nowhere to be seen
 at your table, Jesus!
 the welcome is extravagant
 and overwhelming!
And strangely, now that we see this,
 we no longer need to count the chairs,
 and it doesn't seem to matter