

December 9, 2018

Eleven O'clock

**Second Sunday of Advent
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
A Service of Lessons and Carols**

WELCOME

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we are honored that you have chosen to worship today at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel welcome here and inspired. May you be strengthened by the power of God to meet the challenges of your daily life.

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

We begin worship with the musical prelude and lighting of the candles, reminding us of Christ's presence with us. Please use this time to make the transition from getting here to being here.

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* arr. Paul Laubengayer

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

Many: In the fullness of time, God's light broke through the night.

One: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Many: In Birmingham, a new day is dawning!

One: The sun shall no longer be our light by day,

Many: for God will be our everlasting light,

One: and our days of mourning will be ended.

All: Let us worship God!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* *Adeste Fidelis*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Promised One, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though we do not know what is right. We live in fear, as though you had not shown us grace. Forgive us! Help us make way for you in our hearts and lives. Where we are low, lift us up, and where we are broken, make us whole – for you are the God of our salvation. We open our hearts to you in silent prayer...

*KYRIE 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.7)* VENI EMMANUEL

*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...*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*GLORIA 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Refrain)* VENI EMMANUEL
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**FOCUS ON CHILDREN with the
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** The Lister-Brown Family
Advent is a chance to reclaim God's promise of peace for our world and each one of us. On the leaf in your bulletin, write the name of a person or place in need of peace. Then, as we sing, you are invited to bring your leaf forward to the table to the left of the lectern. Use a ribbon to attach it to the wreath, or leave it on the table as an offering, saying a silent prayer for peace and reconciliation in our broken world.

HYMN 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 1 & 2)* TIF IN VELDELE

DEDICATION OF THE PEOPLE

FOCUS ON MISSION Christmas Joy Offering

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence.
Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book on your pen.*

OFFERTORY *What Child is This* arr. C. McMichael
Honey Kim, violin

*RESPONSE 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter, (v.4)* 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*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

EIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3: 8-15 Kazuo Moriya
Adam, Eve & The Serpent in the Garden

CAROL *Adam lay bounden* Boris Ord

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 9: 2-7 T.C. McLemore
Christ's birth and the Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

CAROL *Creator Of the Stars of Night* arr. John Scott
Honey Kim, Violin

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11: 1-9 Bill Phillips
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

HYMN 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN

FOURTH LESSON Luke 1: 26-35, 38 Meg Shoeman
The Annunciation: The Angel appears to Mary.

CAROL *Salve Regina* Francis Poulenc
Hail, holy queen, Mary, mother of mercy, show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2: 1, 3-7 Peggy Harrell
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

*HYMN 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST LOUIS

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 8-16 Gracie Marble
The Shepherds go to the manger.

CAROL *Ding Dong Merrily on High* arr. Charles Wood

SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-11 Tony Cox
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL *Personent Hodie* arr. Alice Parker
On this day earth shall ring, with a song children sing, to the Lord, Christ our king. God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led, kneeling low by his bed.

EIGHTH LESSON John 1:1-14 Carlitos Norris
John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL *Sky Song* Russell Schultz-Widmar
Honey Kim, Violin solo

PRAYER (Unison)
Holy God, we rejoice to hear the stories of the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, and we anticipate his coming. May the prophets' voices raise our expectations. May Mary's faith strengthen our own. May the shepherds' hope spark our imaginations. May our hearts be ready to receive his love, so that we might share it with all whom we meet. Amen.

* HYMN 119 *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* MENDELSSOHN

*** BLESSING**

*** CHORAL BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. L.Shackley

* Please stand as you are able

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME GUESTS and celebrate that you are worshiping with us today. Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. If you are returning to a distant home, we wish you the Lord's grace and a safe journey. However, if you live in the area and are seeking a faith community, we hope you will return soon so that we may get to know you better. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org. May God's peace and blessing be with you.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Library following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. While all children are welcome in worship, the following alternatives also are available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Moments with the Children*, children ages 3-7 will go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children will return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

OPPORTUNITY INSERT Please use the Opportunity Insert to relay information to the church office, including reservations for church events. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office, fold the insert and put it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The FLOWERS in the sanctuary have been placed to the glory of God and in loving memory of Michael Flowers by his family.

LITURGIST for the day is Susan Davenport.

ACOLYTES for the day are Grayson and Mary Glynn Patton.

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprcdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@fiaal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Pastor and Acting Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE OLIVER, Interim Associate Pastor

THE REV. JIM STANFORD, Parish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. TIMOTHY THOMAS, Director of Music

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Organist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELY, Facility Administrator

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

THE REV. DR. ROBERT S. CRUTCHFIELD, Pastor Emeritus

Have you remembered the church in your will?