

December 2, 2018

Eleven O'clock

The First Sunday of Advent SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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.

GATHERING OF GOD'S 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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Michael McCabe

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Faithful ones, lift up your heads and keep a close watch:

Many: for the time is drawing near.

One: We know neither the day nor the hour,

Many: but our redemption is at hand!

One: Give praise to the One who is coming,

Many: let us wake from our slumber and sing praise for God's salvation!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of hope, we confess that we have allowed ourselves to be shaped by a culture always grasping for more, instead of seeking to simplify, to share, and to be satisfied. As we begin our journey toward Christmas, help us hold on to what really matters: love, shared and received with generosity and grace. Forgive our little faith, and plant within us a deep appreciation for each day as a gift from our Creator. 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 CANDLE

Patti Winter; Diane and Ellie Smalley, Janet Stange, and Shannon White

What is something or someone that gives you hope today? Write it on the flame in your bulletin and bring it forward to the wreath on the left (lectern) side of the sanctuary. If you'd like, get a wire from the table, twist it through the flame and attach it to the wreath. Or, just leave your flame on the table as an offering, saying a silent prayer of thanksgiving for these sparks of hope in our world.

HYMN 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (v. 1)* TIF IN VELDELE
*Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

*GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-26

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Good Things Come to Those Who Wait?* Rev. Cat Goodrich

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* O-SO-SO

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 at the end of your row.*

OFFERTORY *From Heaven on High* F. W. Zachau

*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 one, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise....

One: We join our voices with the faithful of every time and place who forever give glory to your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest....

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & POURING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

We are serving communion by intinction today. There are two stations at the front of the sanctuary. Please come to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it into the cup, and eat. Udi's gluten free, dairy free bread is in a small dish on each plate.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 530 *One Bread, One Body* ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Almighty King* arr. G. Peterson

Following the service, our carillon's Bourdon bell will be tolled eighty-five times in memory of Bettye Jo Moore's 85 years of life.

*Please stand as you are able.

**If you would like to make a gift electronically, scan here to be directed to our online giving site:



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 Chapel 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 *Focus on 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.

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.

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.

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

The LITURGIST for today is Mark Aldridge.

The ACOLYTE for today is Patricia Gauntt.

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.eprdc.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. ROBIN VINES, Carillonneur

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MR. OWEN BLOMELEY, Facility Manager

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?