

December 30, 2018

Eleven O'clock

**1st Sunday after Christmas day
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, inspired, and 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, All Ye Faithful* arr. Phil Perkins

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 148:1, 7, 12)

One: Praise the Lord! Praise God in the heavens.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth!

One: Young and old alike.

All: Men and women together, praise the Lord!

*HYMN 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder,
you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us
with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you
place before us.
Forgive our dullness and make us alert
to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be
witnesses to your good news and proclaim your
extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

*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 FORGIVENESS

*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 Patti Winter

HYMN 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* TIF IN VELDELE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Colossians 3:12-17

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Good Christians all, Rejoice* arr. David Johnson

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 2:41-52

SERMON Rev. Zana Free

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*HYMN 110 *Love Has Come* BRING A TORCH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Scots Confession, Chapter 6,
"The Incarnation of Christ")

**When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son,
God's eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory,
into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the
substance of a woman, by means of the Holy Ghost.
And so was born the "just seed of David,"
the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah
promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be
Immanuel, God with us, true God and true human,
two perfect natures united and joined in one person.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

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 *Sing We Now of Christmas* G. Peters

*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

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Gigue* A. Lovelace

*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

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.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

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

The **LITURGIST** for today is Su Reid-St. John.

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@faal.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 BLOMELEY, 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?