

December 22, 2019

11:00 a.m.

**The Fourth Sunday in Advent  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

**GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

*We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.*

PRELUDE *Jesu Bambino* arr. Robert Hughes

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *We are gathering cloth for the manger this Advent season. Today's theme is "Welcome." On the strip of cloth that you received, please write one way in which you commit to being more welcoming to others.*

INTROIT *Ukrainian Bell Carol*  
FPC Handbell Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE\*\* Gracie Marble and Ellie Smalley

Look! The young woman is with child;  
**she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.**  
As we light the fourth candle of Advent,  
**we open our hearts to welcome Christ's coming reign.**

*The fourth candle is lighted.*

\*HYMN 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING (Cason)

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*\*

**O God, in Christ you welcomed us into your family. We confess that we are not as open to others as you have been to us. While you look upon all as your children, we stare with suspicious eyes. While you open your arms in love, we lock doors and build walls. Forgive our coldness, O God, and open the borders of our hearts. Transform us into your hospitable people, that through us, all may feel welcomed and valued, and strangers may become friends. In silence, we open our hearts to you...**

\*KYRIE 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*  
***O Lord, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;  
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us!***

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA 583 *Gloria, Gloria* GLORIA(Taizé)  
***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.***

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")*

**PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**

SUNG INVITATION

*Come in, come in and sit down,  
you are a part of the family.  
We are lost, and we are found,  
and we are a part of the family.*

FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Patti Winter

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Sing Noel: A Christmas Fanfare* arr. Jay Althouse

Jeff Hairrell, soloist

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *What's in a Name* Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

**DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

\*HYMN 84 *Creator of the Stars of Night* CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

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 at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site, please use your smartphone to scan here:*



THE OFFERTORY *The First Nowell* arr. Kristine Johaneck

FPC Handbell Choir

\*THE DOXOLOGY 608

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise triune God, whom we adore.***

**THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise....**

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the faithful of every time and place, saying:

**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!**

...Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again....**

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.**

\*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*To receive, please come forward to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it in the juice, and eat. The center station contains gluten-free, dairy free bread. Please bring your cloth for the manger and leave it in the basket by the baptismal font.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN 107 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* REJOICE, REJOICE

\*CHARGE and BENECTION

\*POSTLUDE *Joy To the World*  
FPC Handbell Choir

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

\*\*We celebrate that our newly confirmed church members are leading the lighting of the Advent candles this year.

**WE WELCOME VISITORS** Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at [www.fpcbham.org](http://www.fpcbham.org).

**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. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 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 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.

**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](http://www.fpcbham.org).

**The LITURGIST** for today is Francis Rushton.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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@faal.org](mailto: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. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor

THE REV. PATRICK HARLEY, Parrish Associate

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist

JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator

MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

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?*