

# First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena

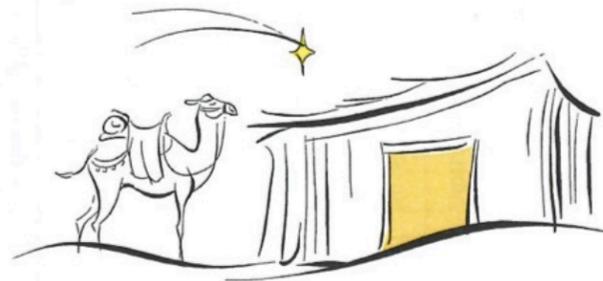
*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

December 23, 2018

10:30 am

**Mission Statement:**

*“Our mission is to live and share the good news of God’s love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ, to equip people for discipleship and service, and to work for social justice and peace.”*



**The One-Star Night**

Into an extremely dark and bitterly cold December came a one-star night.  
Those who had compassion found room and were filled with wonder at the brightness of the star above them.  
Those who saw fell to their knees in fear, but listened to the angels’ song and ran to see.  
Those who heard the baby’s cry believed, and fell to their knees, this time in worship.  
Those who followed the star already believed, and knew the time was now.  
They persisted in their journey through the dark and cold, bringing gifts to this One born to us all in a one-star night.

*Ann Weems*

*From Advent’s Alleluia to Easter’s Morning Light*



**Leading in Worship Today**

Rev. Helen Rose Moore, preaching  
Chère Wharry, Liturgist  
Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director  
Jamie Taylor, Handbell Director  
Ron Ollis, Organist  
Barry Webb, Audio Visual



**FPC Staff**

Jessie Kuehner, Director of Christian Education and Spiritual Formation  
[dce@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:dce@fpcpasadena.org)

Barbara Davis, Office Manager  
[office@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:office@fpcpasadena.org)

Kimberly Waggett, Financial Secretary  
[kimberly@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:kimberly@fpcpasadena.org)

Amanda Baker, Office Assistant  
[office2@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:office2@fpcpasadena.org)

Carrie Reed, Director of Weekday Early Childhood Program (ECP)  
[carrie@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:carrie@fpcpasadena.org)

Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director  
[mwilkins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mwilkins@sbcglobal.net)

Ron Ollis, Organist  
[william.ollis@sjcd.edu](mailto:william.ollis@sjcd.edu)

Jamie Taylor, Handbell Director  
[jamielt31995@gmail.com](mailto:jamielt31995@gmail.com)

Maria Morales, Custodian

**FPC Elders**

**Class of 2018**

Ruth Askine  
Nola Bray  
Barbara Davis  
Bonnie Keith

**Class of 2019**

Maurice Barclay  
Donna Morrison  
Jim Tinney  
Chère Wharry

**Class of 2020**

Luis Alvarez  
Brett Coe  
Jeanie Falls  
Tom Hoffman

**FPC Deacons**

**Class of 2018**

Connie Brakebill  
Elois Murray  
Celia Scheer  
Karen Schimnowski

**Class of 2019**

Joyce Barclay  
Barbara Chitwood  
Sue Clark  
Betty Pendleton

**Class of 2020**

Faith Alvarez  
Donna Coe  
Brian Davis  
George Yeargin

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Gathering Around the Word of God**

**Welcome and Life of the Church**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle:** Curt, Anne, Kathryn, and Kade Berridge

**Prelude:** *Angels We Have Heard on High* Margaret Cowen  
FPC Handbells

**Introit:** #85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Yiddish Folk Song

**†Call to Worship:**

Leader: We come to glorify God, to rejoice in the One who saves us.

**All: God comes, inviting us to believe, calling us to be blessed.**

Leader: Our hearts leap for joy, for God is coming to us as a child.

**All: God comes for those who hunger for hope, for those who thirst for grace.**

Leader: Holy is the One Who comes in God's Name, bringing peace to a shattered world.

**All: Let us worship God together.**

**†Hymn of Praise:** #123 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

**Call to Confession**

**Corporate Prayer of Confession:**

**Holy God of Advent, we confess we are not the people You create us to be. We say beautiful words on Sunday, then spend the week forgetting what we promised in Your Holy Presence. We fail to connect the faith we profess to the lives that we lead. Yet, out of Your amazing love for us You come to us in the weakness of a baby. With humble and contrite hearts we repent and pray that You will look with grace upon us. Renew our spirits and send us forth to shine Your light and love in a hurting world. In the holy Name of Jesus we pray.**

**Silent Confession**

**Liturgist:** Amen

698 Take, O Take Me as I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall

be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God passes the heirloom of mercy down from generation to generation, always loving, always forgiving, always calling us to new life.

**All: As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the birth of Jesus, we will live as those who have hope, as those who live under grace. Thanks be to God, through Whose love we are forgiven. Amen.**

**†Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain): #113**

**†Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Anthem:** *The Yearning* Craig Courtney

There is a yearning in heart weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow  
There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide,  
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.  
There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned,  
to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.  
There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed  
within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

**Prayer for Illumination:** #288 *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**First Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5a (p. 658)

**Sermon Lesson:** Luke 1:39-56 (p. 724)

**Sermon:** "Mary Said Yes" Rev. Helen Rose Moore

**Responding to the Word of God**

**†Affirmation of Faith -Apostles' Creed (p. 34)**

**†Hymn of Affirmation:** #99 *My Soul Gives Glory to My God*  
(choir to sing first verse, congregation joins in verses 2-5)

**Offering Our Gifts to God:**

**Offertory Music:** *He Shall Feed His Flock from Messiah* G.F. Handel  
Melba Slaven and Marilyn Wilkins, sopranos

**†Doxology:** #143 *Angels, from the realms of Glory (verse 4)*

**†Prayer of Dedication (unison):**

**In these moments, God Who comes, remind us of those who are not surrounded by love, those who do not know. Make our gifts holy so that we will serve You by serving them. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

**Taking the Word of God into the World**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (p. 35)**

**†Hymn of Inspiration:** #132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

**†Benediction**

**†Response:** #88 *Sevenfold Amen* John Stainer

**†Postlude:** *Regent Square* Michael Burkhardt