

First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

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.”

What concerns me,
what lies in my heart
is this:
That we in the church
papered and programmed
articulate and agenda-ed
are telling the faith story
all wrong,
are telling it as though it happened two thousand
years ago
or is going to happen
as soon as the church budget is raised.
We seem to forget that Christ’s name is Immanuel,
God With Us
Not just when he sat among us
but now,
when we cannot feel the nailprints in his hands.
Ann Weems from Kneeling in Bethlehem



Leading in Worship Today

Rev. Dr. James Currie, Preaching
Donna Morrison, Liturgist
Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director
Margaret Bardin, Organist
Barry Webb, Audio-Visual Ministry



FPC Staff

James S. Currie, Pastor
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FPC Elders

Class of 2017
Tom Chitwood
Natica Cooper
Shelley Covington
Stan Ganderson
Roy Kreitz
Class of 2018
Ruth Askine
Nola Bray
Barbara Davis
Bonnie Keith
Class of 2019
Maurice Barclay
Donna Morrison
Jim Tinney
Chere Wharry

FPC Deacons

Class of 2017
Cindy Berridge
Garland DeLoach
Joyce DeLoach
Linda Ross
Class of 2018
Connie Brakebill
Elois Murray
Celia Scheer
Bruce Walters
Class of 2019
Joyce Barclay
Barbara Chitwood
Sue Clark
Betty Pendleton

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

Welcome and Life of the Church

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Myoung Shin and Phil Hilson

Prelude: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* Johann Sebastian Bach

Introit: #85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Yiddish folk song

†Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus says: I am coming soon. .

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Leader: Look! The young woman is with child;

All: she will call him Emmanuel: God is with us.

†Hymn of Praise: #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Call to Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of Israel, may Jesus, Emmanuel and son of Mary, be more than just a dream in our hearts. With the apostles, prophets, and saints, save us, restore us, and lead us in the way of grace and peace, that we may bear your promise into the world. Amen.

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take, O Take Me as I Am'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe and live the good news of the gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

†Glory Be to The Father (Gloria Patri) #581

†Sharing the Peace of Christ

Chancel Time with Children

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

Anthem: *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* William Mathias

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,
and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.

Proclaiming the Word of God

Prayer for Illumination #92: *While We Are Waiting, Come*

While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.

First Lesson: Luke 2:1-14 (p. 724)

Sermon Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (p. 489)

Sermon: "The Humility of God" Rev. Jim Currie

Responding to the Word of God

†Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (p. 35)

†Hymn of Affirmation: #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory Music: *Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child* English Carol, arr. by Anne A. Davis

†Doxology: #606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

†Prayer of Dedication

Taking the Word of God into the World

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

†Hymn of Inspiration: #137 *He Came Down*

†Benediction

Response: *Amen* ...to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

†Postlude: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* John Francis Wade/arr. by Sigvart A. Hofland