

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Welcome and Announcements****Prelude** *Now Come, Savior of the Heathen* (BuxWV 211)**Call to Worship**

One: The heavens are being torn open!

**All: The mountains quake at God's presence.**

One: The face of God is soon to shine among us.

**All: Even the stars cannot hold God's glory!****Hymn** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.  
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationship, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed, for we pray through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon****Lighting of the Advent Candle****Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading** Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

**Sermon** "Be Ready!"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

**Affirmation of Faith (from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)**

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one Triune God, the holy one of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**Anthem** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Robert Hebble

**Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Postlude** *Hark, the Glad Sound*

Paul Manz



**Remember in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Health concerns:** Louis McCaleb; Donna Morrison; Bill McPhail; Jane Christopher; Imelda Carrillo; Baywood Crossing residents and staff; Ron Grimes (Thelma Jean Paradysz's son-in-law); Mary Knapik; Larry Parks; Joyce DeLoach; John Rarden, Sr.; Lyles Burke; Michael Wharry; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus.

**Loss of loved one:** Patsy Dunbar family

## **Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at [fpcpasadena.org](http://fpcpasadena.org)**

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**Today, November 29** - First Sunday of Advent, virtual worship.

**Upcoming Worship Services:** 12/6-Second Sunday of Advent, sanctuary worship with a live streaming option; 12/13-Third Sunday of Advent, sanctuary worship with a live streaming option. See in-church worship protocols below.)

**Prayer Shawl Group meets every Tuesday via Zoom at 1:30 pm.** To join this group contact Johnnie Haltom or Barbara Davis.

**Brown Bag and Bible Wednesdays at 12:00 pm.** Make your lunch, grab your Bible, and click the link for this Zoom meeting. If you are not on Fairfax's email list and want to be a part of the Bible study, please email Fairfax at [revfair@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:revfair@fpcpasadena.org) to add your name. If needed, contact the church office for Zoom link at [office@fpcpasadena.org](mailto:office@fpcpasadena.org).

**Annual Reports due from each ministry by January 8.**

## **Announcement from Presbyterian Women**

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After being told that Wreaths Across America Houston would not be selling wreaths, the decision has since been made to sell the wreaths for 2020.

PW WILL NOT have a fund raiser this year selling the wreaths. However, if you received a form in the mail from Wreaths Across America and wish to purchase wreaths, PW will still receive credit for the purchase.

Wreaths cost \$15 each and PW receives \$5 from each wreath sold. Just a reminder, PW uses the money for our VA hospital party and visit.

Some of you may have received a form in the mail from WAA asking for your contribution. If so, this form may be filled out and mailed with your check, but must be **received by December 1st** for it to count on this year's order. **Do not mail your order to the church or to Melba Slaven! Checks are to be made payable to "Wreaths Across America - Houston" and mailed to the address provided on the same form.**

Those wanting to purchase by credit card, please go on-line to **Wreaths Across America Houston and click on "donate to fundraising team"**. Type in **Presbyterian Women Pasadena** and this will take you to the page for credit card information.

If you want your wreath to go to a particular grave and you do not know the site or grave number, please call Melba Slaven and she will give you the information you will need in order to do this.

Thanks to everyone for your support!

Melba Slaven

Chairman for WAA Fundraiser

## **First Presbyterian Church of Pasadena In-Church Worship Protocols**

For at least the next year, we anticipate our lives will be shaped by the timeline set by COVID-19. We face difficult choices between conflicting needs, wants, and imperatives. We anticipate that we will be continuously evaluating what worship and all other church functions look like.

Despite our best efforts to provide a safe worship experience, conditions may again require the closing of the building. The pastor, in consultation with church leaders, will use CDC, Harris County, and PCUSA guidelines and good judgment to determine how to promote safety in reopening FPCP while actively monitoring local transmission rates of COVID-19. To preserve the health of our members, if circumstances change and worshipping together is not wise, services will again be virtual only.

We recognize that some of our members have underlying health issues or risk factors. Their health and safety must be at the forefront of our considerations. Persons with a high morbidity risk from COVID-19 are urged to stay home and continue to worship virtually. We will nonetheless strive to promote safe, in-person worship experiences for all that do not discriminate against persons with disabilities or high-risk conditions.

### **Church Physical Set Up:**

- Doors will be left open so no one has to touch a door handle. This includes the designated entry door [the front door under the porte-cochere] and the doors into the sanctuary.
- No-Touch Hand Sanitizer dispensers will be installed in the Narthex.
- Offering plates will be placed by the baptismal font.
- Pews will be marked so people space themselves safely and avoid contact.
- Hymnals, Bibles, friendship folders, offering envelopes, Kleenex, etc. will be removed from pews.
- Signs will be posted that only one person at a time is to be in the restroom and additional signs will be posted to wipe handles touched with sanitizing wipes.
- The Church kitchen will remain closed.
- Signs encouraging hand washing and mandating face mask use (covering nose and mouth) will be posted in the Narthex.
- Signs encouraging social distancing will be posted in the narthex as well as the sanctuary.
- Sanitizing wipes will be available as needed.
- Gloves will be available in the Narthex and at the back of the church.
- One microphone per speaker will be set up.
- Camera will be set up to provide option of live streaming the service

### **Worship Procedures**

- **Everyone in the building and on the church grounds must wear a cloth or medical mask.** Members are strongly encouraged to bring their own. We may have some available, while supplies last. Individuals uncomfortable wearing a face mask or with a medical condition that makes wearing a mask problematic may continue to participate in our on-line services.
- Social distancing of a minimum of six feet must be observed at all times, with the exception of members who live in the same household.
- Non-contact infrared thermometers will be used to take temperatures upon entry. Anyone with a temperature of 100.2 and higher will not be allowed into the building.
- Names of worshipers will be recorded as they enter to keep track of who has been part of the worship experience in the event that they need to be contacted.
- Greeters will be asked to stand back a minimum of six feet and welcome folks verbally.
- Bulletins and announcements will continue to be available online for the live streamed service.
- Bulletins will not be distributed to participate in the service in the sanctuary. Information will be projected on the screens at the front of the sanctuary.
- We will present shortened services to minimize risk.

*Worship Procedures continued...*

- Live streaming on YouTube or recorded services will continue for those who are not comfortable returning to 'in-person' worship
- Soloist may sing from behind a three-sided plexiglass shield.
- There will be no congregational or choral singing. It has been determined that singing is among the riskier behaviors for spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.
- Worshipers will leave by row, as directed.

**Other Changes to Normal Practices**

- Online (ZOOM) continues for Brown Bag, Session and ministry meetings, PW, Book Group, Wonderful Wednesday, etc.
- Office open by appointment. As on Sundays, masks required for staff and visitors.
- Forego November celebration of communion.
- Use of building by outside groups remains suspended.
- Congregants who are sick or who have had close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 are to stay home.
- Local health officials will be contacted if a person diagnosed with COVID-19 has been in the church and this information also will be communicated with members so they are aware of potential exposure. The Clerk of Session, with the assistance of the church office, will be responsible to make the communications.

**DISCONTINUE:**

- Children's Sermon
- Passing the Peace, hugs, handshakes, elbow bumps, etc.
- Physical use of Bibles and Hymnals
- Nursery
- Coffee
- Use of water fountains