

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome and Announcements**Prelude** *In Dulci Jubilo* (BuxWV 197)

Dietrich Buxtehude

Call to Worship**Prayer of Praise****Prayer of Confession****Assurance of Pardon****Lighting of the Advent Candles on the Advent Wreath**

Marvin and Sue Clark

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading** Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Special Music *Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming*

arr. Hayes and Gaspard

Margaret Bardin, piano, and Ron Ollis, organ

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**Benediction****Postlude** *In Dulci Jubilo* (BWV 729)

J. S. Bach



Tithes, offerings, and pledge cards may be dropped in the basket by the baptismal font. Pledge Cards for 2021 are available for you to take, prayerfully complete, and return to the church office or the offering plate next week.

To show love for one another, please remember to exit the sanctuary by row from the rear and maintain six-foot distance from those not in your household.

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; John Rarden, Sr.; Lyles Burke; Michael Wharry; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Kathy Sydnor; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus; Jaundine Fifield and her twin sister, Imogene Fish.

Flowers today are given to the glory of God from Frank and Glenda Kucera in memory of their parents.

Upcoming Events @ FPC - more details at fpcpasadena.org

December 13 is the Third Sunday of Advent. Celebrate this season of anticipation and preparation each week at FPC as we journey towards Bethlehem. The third (**JOY**) candle will be lit on the Advent wreath in worship. To add meaning to this season, the **2020 Advent Devotional** is emailed each week (*mailed to those without email*).

Worship Services in December if public health concerns allow. See in-church worship protocols below:

- 12/13 - Third Sunday of Advent, sanctuary worship with a live streaming option
- 12/20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, sanctuary worship with a live streaming option
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Service outside at 5:30 pm
- 12/27 - First Sunday of Christmas, sanctuary worship with a live streaming option

The Christmas JOY OFFERING provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need and supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools. Please give generously to this special offering on Sunday, December 20.

The Bethlehem Market, the alternative gift market, is open under the front drive-thru before and after worship services today and the next two weeks. You may donate by cash or check (written to FPC) to your favorite mission in honor of someone, and you will be given a gift card to send to the person you are honoring. Stop by to shop and give a gift that will make a difference.

2021 Pledge Update: To date we have received pledges totaling \$243,280 and pledges are still coming in. Your turning in the pledge card helps the session know how to plan for next year.

PYCC Mission Project December 2020 - Chrissi Ellis is our FPC candidate for Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC) for Presbytery of New Covenant. Chrissi and other PYCC candidates have met via Zoom to plan, grow in faith, and virtually bond with each other as they prepare for Conclaves 2021 at Cho-Yeh. What fun it will be to finally be together for Conclaves! *Let's support Chrissi by donating to Mission Project 2020. Below is a list of items needed. A collection box will be in the Narthex through December. FPC, let's overwhelm Chrissi with donations for her January PYCC meeting!*

Thank you from your Discipleship Ministry and Chrissi Ellis

PYCC MISSION PROJECT DECEMBER 2020

Individually wrapped snacks	Face towels	Sunscreen
Individually wrapped drinks	Soap	Insect repellent
Masks	Hand sanitizer	Mints
Combs	Toothbrush	Socks
Hand lotion	Toothpaste	
Lip balm	Plastic utensils	

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 to add your name. If needed, contact the church office for Zoom link at office@fpcpasadena.org.

Annual Reports due from each ministry by January 8.

FOUND - Set of keys with a Ford key on ring. Contact Barbara at church, 281-991-8700.

Reminder: Narthex doors open at 10 am. Worship Service is at 10:30 am. Also, for the safety of each and every one of us, **masks must be worn while in the building - even while sitting in the sanctuary.**

Live-streaming of Sunday's service can be found on our website. Please use your good judgment about which option is best for you and your health. When the pandemic is over, we look forward to all being together again safely.

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