

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Welcome and Announcements**Prelude** *Away in a Manger*

James Murray, arr. Joyce Jones

Call to Worship**Prayer of Praise****Anthem** *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam, arr. Rutter

Marilyn Wilkins, soprano, and Ron Ollis, organ

Prayer of Confession**Assurance of Pardon****Prayer for Illumination****New Testament Reading** Luke 2:21-35

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Sermon "God's Salvation"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

Organ Voluntary. *What Child is This***Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer****Benediction****Postlude** *Joy to the World*

G. F. Handel, arr. Joyce Jones



*Thank you for your gifts that support our ministries, year in and year out.
Checks dropped off or postmarked by December 31 will help us finish this year strong.
Pledges for next year help the session plan for 2021.
Pledge cards are available by the baptismal font or by calling the church office.*

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.; Michael Wharry; Jamie Jamison; Camp Clemmons; Cathy Sydnor; Health care workers and all those struggling with the coronavirus; Jaundine Fifield and her twin sister, Imogene Fish; Jason Reed; Bill Flora.

FLOWERS are given to the glory of God from Leah Palmer in memory of her mother, Margaret Thomas.

Upcoming Events @ FPC - *more details at fpcpasadena.org*

Stepping Out in Faith Sunday School led by Pat Abrams meets Sundays at 8::30 via Zoom. To join, contact Bonnie Keith.

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

The Wednesday Brown Bag and Bible will resume on January 6, 2021.

Annual Reports due from each ministry by January 8.

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	

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