

First Presbyterian Church

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort,
to all who struggle and desire victory, to all who sin and need a Savior,
to all who are strangers and want fellowship,
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

Prelude

Judy Glass, Organ
"Carol Medley" by Judy Glass

Preparing Our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, Who was descended from David according to the flesh.

—Romans 1:1-3

Adult Choir
(vv. 4,5 CONGREGATIONAL)

"Once in Royal David's City" by Cecil Alexander and Henry Gauntlett

†Call to Worship (To be read responsively)

Rev. Tim Tinsley

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

People: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Leader: Jesus Christ is our life and light. In His name and in His power let us worship God. All God's people—boys and girls, men and women:

People: Come and worship!

Leader: Shepherds, magi, saints, and angels:

People: Come and worship! Come and worship!

Leader: All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

People: Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!

†Hymns

No. 203 (vv. 1-3)
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
No. 211 (vv. 1-4)
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"

†Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Chris Ehlers

†Hymn

No. 194 (vv. 1-4)
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Affirmation of Faith (To be read responsively)

Rev. Chris Ehlers

New City Catechism Q&A #17

Leader: What is idolatry?

People: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

All: For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. . . . They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator . . . —Romans 1:21 and 25

Public Confession of Sin (To be read in unison)

Rev. Chris Ehlers

Father in heaven, we thank You for the freedom You have given us through the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son. But we confess today that we often live like slaves. Instead of living like You delight in us, we avoid You in shame and guilt. Instead of receiving Your favor as a gift, we try to earn it with our efforts. Instead of accepting Your freedom, we prefer our chains. Instead of pursuing Your purposes, we cling to our short-sighted agendas. Forgive us. Embrace us. Cleanse us. Heal us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Private Confession of Sin

Prayer of Assurance & for God's People

Rev. Tim Tinsley

Offertory

Adult Choir with Natalie Hughes

"O Holy Night" arr. by Bob Krogstad

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining; it is the night of the dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here came the wise men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our Friend. He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! Behold your King, before Him lowly bend.

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise his holy name. Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

†Greeting of Peace

Rev. Chris Ehlers

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

†Gloria Patri

No. 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Joynt Family

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and we will light the Candle of Joy.

†Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9 (pp. 575-576 in pew Bible)

Leader: Today we light the Fourth Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. We light this candle to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

Dismissal of Children

Rev. Chris Ehlers

**Children's church for 4 years old through 1st grade is available at this time in the PreK-K room. Leaders will meet children at the left front doors of the Sanctuary.*

Sermon

Rev. Tim Tinsley
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

†Closing Hymn

No. 196 (vs. 4)
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

†The Benediction

Rev. Tim Tinsley

Postlude

Judy Glass, Organ
"In Dulci Jubilo" by J.S. Bach

†The Congregation will please stand.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Lawrence H. Lassiter by Mrs. Lawrence Lassiter, Charlotte McNally, Lynn Lassiter-Kendrick, and Charles Lassiter, and their families. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 (Flowers will be arranged and delivered following the late worship service. In the spirit of CHRISTmas, the flower ministry would greatly appreciate assistance in delivering flowers to our dear homebound members and others. Please check downstairs (Nell Davis Classroom) after the 10:55 service for any needed deliveries IN YOUR AREA! If you know in advance that you will be available to deliver, IN YOUR AREA, please email Gigi Gross, gggross@epbfi.com.)

Announcements are available at the entrances or www.FPCChatt.com.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

– Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Notes:

This Week at FPCC

Sunday, December 24

10:30 AM	Fellowship Worship Service	Fellowship Hall
	Worship Service	Sanctuary
12:15 PM	Coffee/Coke Fellowship	Library/Lounge
	Flower Arranging/Delivery	Nell Davis
4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary

Monday, December 25

Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

Friday, December 29

6:00 PM Children’s Ministry Girls’ Night Library

Saturday, December 30

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