



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 29, 2019

11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

PREPARATION

(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)

**Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

PRELUDE

Chorale and three chorale preludes on "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her" (From Heaven above to Earth I come; hymn 111)	Johann Bernhardt Bach (1676–1749) Helmut Walcha (1907–1991) Johann Pachelbel (1653–1706)
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Jack Rain, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 143**

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jarryd Lunger

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. *(Please take time for silent confession.)*
Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE TO GOD’S GRACE—HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (v. 3)

IN DULCI JUBILO

PROCLAMATION

HYMN 136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

CHILDREN’S SERMON

(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children’s Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9

(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 848)

Second Lesson: Matthew 2: 13-23

Rev. Ruth Elswood

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 2)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“What it Means to Be Human”

Rev. Ruth Elswood

RESPONSE

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS—INVITATION AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy
Sleep/People, Look East”

K. Lee Scott

Chancel Choir

Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep, rise, and leave your silly sheep; angels from heav'n around are singing, tidings of great joy are bringing. *Shepherds, the chorus come and swell, sing noel, oh sing noel.* Hark! even now the bells ring round, Listen to their merry sound. Hark! how the birds new songs are making; as if winter's chains were breaking. *Shepherds, the chorus* See how the flow'rs all burst anew, thinking snow is summer dew; see how the stars a-fresh are glowing,

all their brightest beams bestowing. *Shepherds, the chorus* Cometh at length the age of peace, strife and sorrow now shall cease. Prophets foretold the wondrous story of this heav'n-born Prince of glory. *Shepherds, the chorus* Shepherds! then up and quick away, seek the babe ere break of day; he is the hope of ev'ry nation, all in him shall find salvation. *Shepherds, the chorus*

People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad, though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen he for fledging-time has chosen. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Bird, is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast him who cometh from the east. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

SENDING

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 145**

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her” (From Heaven above to Earth I come)

Johann Pachelbel

FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

A digital copy of each Sunday's **11:00 a.m. order of worship and announcements** can be found on our website: www.fpcstpete.com. On the home page, click on "Sundays" then scroll down to "Sunday's Bulletin." Also online: our **Calendar of Events** is updated as we receive information, and may be accessed from our website's "Events" tab at the top of the page.

CHANCEL FLOWERS



If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope, available in

the church pew. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in prayer: Ruth Bafaro, Ron & Millie Bradley, Katy Churchil, Bob Clark, Kat Cline, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall, Larry and Diane Heath, Rhys Hogan, Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam

Malone, Barbara Mauger, Johnny Miller, Jr., Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Peter Pav, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Miriam Putney, Lil Reid, Allen & Jean Schultz, Jane Snoke, Nikki Stubbs, Laura Unger.

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: Brian Herzik,



USA, LTC; James Loeblein, USN; 1st LT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd LT. Mallory

Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.* If you know of others, please contact **Blanche Ganey** (bganey@fpc-stpete.org).

Hearing assists are available for use during worship in the sanctuary. If you would like to use one, please contact an usher, who will help you.

LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HYMNS

**Large
Print**

See an usher if you need a large-print bulletin or hymns. Each week we have large-print copies of the bulletin and hymns available at the back of the church.

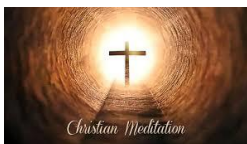
GRIEFSHARE STARTS UP AGAIN JANUARY 5



Griefshare will begin again in January. Each week we will offer two sessions of this

support group for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend. We will meet Sundays from 4–5:30 p.m. beginning January 5, and Tuesdays from 10–11:30 a.m. beginning January 7. Both groups are in the Chapel. Please join us for any or all of our meetings to learn about this journey “from mourning to joy.” For more information contact **Ruth Elswood** at relswood@fpc-stpete.org

MEDITATION FOR CHRISTIANS



You will feel warmly welcomed when you come to meditation in a small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 7, in the chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. For more information, please contact group leader **Carlen Maddux** (cmaddux@maddux.com or 727-504-8201). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

PASSING OF THE PEACE DONE DIFFERENTLY DURING FLU SEASON



An “elbow bump” can be safer than a handshake at this time of year.

PROPERTY SECURITY TEAM MEETING *A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions.—Proverbs 22:3*



Church Leadership has requested a committee to determine how best to protect the congregation from unwanted disturbances. It is important to have a written policy; an unwritten policy is NO policy. The church needs your ideas and opinions. By attending this meeting we will put together a working document to direct our efforts. After the initial meeting, much of the work will be done by small groups via phone/e-mail. Your attendance is

important for the welfare of your church and your friends. The meeting is Monday, January 6, in Room N-123 at 7 p.m. Any questions can be directed to Dick Luehrs at 727-866-7965 or dicklu@windstream.net

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY COMES TO FPC!



Beginning Wednesday, January 8, you will have the opportunity to “Start Winning with Money,” using the step-by-step plan,

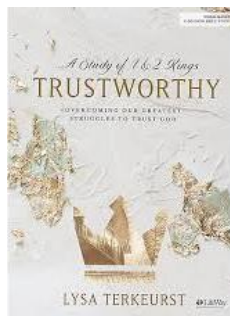
taught through Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. Former FPC member Craig Kilroy will teach the 9-week course that has helped thousands increase their financial security. *See insert for additional information.*

PASTOR DAWN WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE

Pastor Dawn will be out of the office for the next couple of weeks from December 26–January 5. In the event that there is a pastoral emergency during that time, please call the Church Office at 727-822-2031 during regular business hours. For after-hours emergencies, use the following

schedule: December 26–27—call **Pastor Dawn** (352-222-9859); December 28—call **Rev. Ken Young** (207-841-8562); December 29-January 5—call **Rev. Ruth Elswood** (352-278-0757).

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY LYSA TERKEURST’S “TRUSTWORTHY” STARTING JANUARY 7



Do you ever struggle to really, fully trust God? I understand. When hard times come and it seems like God starts to deviate from the plan I’m assuming my life should follow, I’m much more likely to want to tame God... not trust Him. Join us Tuesdays, starting January 7. There is a class at 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. Child care will be available by appointment only. Please e-mail childcare@fpc-stpete.org or call 727-828-3971

CHILD CARE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

FPC Child Care is now hiring for part-time positions. You must be 18 years or older and love children. *See insert for additional information.*

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT FPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Communion Worship	8:15 AM	Chapel
Contemporary Worship	9:00 AM	F'ship Hall
Contemporary Faith Class	9:45 AM	N-120
Faith-Filled Families Class	9:45 AM	S-100
Faith Journey Class	9:45 AM	S-202
Westminster Class	9:45 AM	N-123
FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Shores	9:45 AM	Church Bus
Children's Sunday School	10:00 AM	
Youth Sunday School	10:00 AM	Youth Cntr
FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Suncoast	10:00 AM	Church Bus
FPC Bus Transportation from Presbyterian Towers	10:15 AM	Church Bus
FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Palms	10:30 AM	Church Bus
Valet Parking	10:30 AM	
Classic Worship with Choir	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Godly Play	11:00 AM	S-108
Youth Group	5:00 PM	Youth Cntr
Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM	N-121

MONDAY, December 30

Kids' Fun Day	9:00 AM	Child Care
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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Kids' Fun Day	9:00 AM	Child Care
Faith Development Bible Study	9:30 AM	S-100
Praise Band Rehearsal	6:30 PM	F'ship Hall
Alcoholics Anonymous	7:30 PM	N-123

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Happy New Year!

Church Office Closed		
AA for Women	7:00 PM	N-123

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

Presbyterian Women Circle		
Bible Leader Meeting	11:00 AM	S-100
Girl Scouts Troop 560	6:30 PM	S-206

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

Men's Sunrise Bible Study	7:30 AM	N-123
Kids' Fun Day	9:00 AM	Child Care
Bible Study Lunch Bunch	12:00 PM	Off-site
Girl Scout Troop 560	6:30 PM	S-206

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

Kids' Night Out	5:00 PM	Child Care
Al-Anon Family Group	7:00 PM	N-123



Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti, Pastor ♦ Matt Clear, Director of Worship Music and the Arts ♦ Kevin Clark, Contemporary Worship Leader ♦ Jack Rain, Organist ♦ David Aumack, Youth Coordinator ♦ Rev. Ruth Elswood, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Amy Grossenbacher, Admin. Asst. ♦ Stacey Ramirez, Director of Child Care ♦ Linda Champion, Staff Accountant ♦ Blanche Ganey, Office Manager ♦ Johnny Miller, Building & Grounds Superintendent ♦ Bob Langley, Custodian
 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 ♦ Church Office: (727) 822-2031 ♦ Fax: (727) 894-2971 Day School: (727) 894-5889 ♦ Web site: www.fpcstpete.com ♦ E-mail: office@fpc-stpete.org

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