



# First Presbyterian Church

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

December 2, 2018

11:00 a.m.

## First Sunday of Advent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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### 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 Improvisation on *Picardy*" (hymn 347)

J. J. Keeler  
(1913-1996)

Jack Rain, organist

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

**For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."**

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

**Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Peace be within your walls.**

Let us worship God!

## **INTROIT**

“People, Look East”  
Chancel Choir

Martin Shaw

## **\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 347**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE**

## **PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Susan Schlecht

God of forgiveness and mercy, hear our prayer as we confess our sin. With moments so critical, we let time go. With deliverance so near, we winter in the darkness. With Christ as our armor, we yet fear the unknown foe. With the night having passed, we still hesitate to greet the new day. O God, lead us forth, that we may meet the moment you graciously give us. Dispel the shadows, so that your will may be clear. Clothed with light and new life in Christ, let us go forth as those awake to your will. Amen.

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Susan Schlecht

Jesus said that anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has eternal life. The time is coming, indeed it is already here. All who heed God’s voice shall have life and that, indeed, eternal. Rest in the assurance of God’s grace made known to us in Jesus the Christ.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Susan Schlecht

## **PROCLAMATION**

### **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: Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6  
(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 1088)

Susan Schlecht

Second Lesson: Luke 1:5-25  
(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 68)

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti

This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

“Zechariah”

Dr. Dawn Conti

## RESPONSE

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

It is truly right...sing to the glory of Your name:

Hymn 552

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

LAND OF REST

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND LORD’S PRAYER

(concluding with) Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

**OFFERTORY**      “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”      John Carter  
Chancel Choir

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He; of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore. O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bear the Savior of our race; and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore. O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be; honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore. Amen.

**\*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.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## SENDING

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 82** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“Fantasy on *Hyfrydol*” (hymn 82)      Mark Thallander

*The congregation is invited to come forward and stand by the organ console.  
The minister is available at the door as you leave.*

December 2, 2018

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## FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*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.fpc-stpete.org](http://www.fpc-stpete.org). Choose Sunday Bulletins on the left side of the web page. 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.

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## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Christmas Greens in the sanctuary today were given to the glory of God and in memory of William A. Hunter III by Dr. & Mrs William Hunter.

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: Cheryl Belobraydic, Millie Bradley, Phoebe Catlin, Kat Cline, Bill Davenport, Jean Enders, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Susan and Jim Frishe, Jim and Petra Garnett, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall, Claire Hoel, Hilman Holifield, Jean Howie, Barbara Hubbell, Walter Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Glenice Kelley, Michael Liguori, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, John McCammon, Gayle



Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Anne Mulder, Tamara Murphy, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Bob and Jean Reed, Lee Scott, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, Rev. Alice Winters, and Mona Young.

**Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military:**

James Loeblein, USN; 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Taina Specie, USA; 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:bganey@fpc-stpete.org)).

## CHRISTMAS GREENS

Christmas is here, and it is time to decorate the church. If you would like to make a donation to help decorate our church in memory of or in honor of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the green envelope in the pews and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. An insert listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in the bulletin.

## PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE

As you begin writing your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas tree and enclosing a

donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund, which provides confidential financial support throughout the year to members of our congregation and others recommended by local social services to pay for utility bills, medical needs, shelter, and other necessities. Each Sunday in December, members of the Mission Ministry will be available at the basket in the fellowship hall and at the Christmas tree located in the back of the sanctuary following the 9:00 and 11:00 services, respectively, to take your donations and hang your cards. They will also provide a card if you need one.

### **CHRISTMAS WITH MASTER CHORALE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 8:00 P.M.**

The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay will present a Christmas concert in our sanctuary this coming Friday, December 7, at 8:00 p.m. **Note: This is a ticketed event.** Tickets may be purchased online at [www.MasterChorale.com](http://www.MasterChorale.com) or at the door for \$25. FPC members receive a \$5 discount by purchasing online and entering the discount code **FPC1819**.

### **MEDITATION FOR CHRISTIANS**

You are invited to experience meditation in a small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 4, in the chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our group leader is **Carlen Maddux**. For more information,

please contact **John Sims** (8674032, or [simsjr@eckerd.edu](mailto:simsjr@eckerd.edu)). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

### **STEPHEN MINISTER FOR BLUE CHRISTMAS**

*"Stephen Ministry:  
Christ caring for people through  
people."*

Christmas is a season of joy for most people. But we all have years when it seems more like a Blue Christmas. If this sounds like you, let us come to visit awhile. Stephen Ministers, male and female, are ready to be with you, one-on-one, in utmost confidentiality. If you or someone you know is going through one of life's challenging times, please speak to Pastor Dawn for a referral, or call Ginger McCoy (727-804-2494) or Terry Schoenberg (727-667-1023), to have a Stephen Minister talk confidentially with you. We all need hope and healing, and no one needs to go through it alone.

The Stephen Ministers wish to express their gratitude to the Deacons and other volunteers who provided setup, greetings, refreshments, photos, and information for the workshop on November 3. We believe God blessed many during that workshop. It could not have been so successful without you. We are grateful our Lord uses all of us in his miraculous work.

### **END-OF-YEAR GIVING**

During December many of us consider steps we can take to reduce our

income tax burden due by April 15 of the following year. One effective step is to increase charitable contributions before year end. If you have not yet completed your 2018 stewardship pledge, or if you would like to contribute a designated gift to another need in the church, we hope you will consider giving toward those causes before December 31. To give stocks or other non-monetary gifts, please contact **Linda Champion** ([lchampion@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:lchampion@fpc-stpete.org)) for details. All contributions to the Lord's mission work through First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg are greatly appreciated.

**CAROLS AROUND THE TABLE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 6:00 P.M.**



This is always a nice event to kickstart the holidays. There will be carol singing, entertainment,

and great food in fellowship hall.

**DON'T FORGET THE FREE CLINIC**

Hungry people need to eat after Thanksgiving, too, and we can feed the hungry through donating non-perishable food items to the St. Pete Free Clinic. Place them in the bin or basket in the sanctuary or fellowship hall, where they will be collected and sent to the Free Clinic.

**MANY MOODS OF CHRISTMAS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 4:00 P.M.**

Make plans to join us as we continue one of the most beloved traditions in our church and community. This concert combines Christmas favorites that you know and love with masterwork selections from Händel's *Messiah*. The choir and orchestra will be bigger than ever before as we partner with student musicians and singers from the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR LIVE NATIVITY,  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15**

We need shepherds, angels, wise men and possibly even a Mary and Joseph. This is a wonderful outreach for our church. If you are willing, we would need you at the church around 5:00 p.m. on December 15. We have the costumes. All we need is YOU. If willing, please email **Carol Riley** at [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org).





**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2  
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Communion Worship 8:15 AM Chapel  
 Contemporary Worship 9:00 AM F'shp Hall  
 Contemporary Faith Class 9:45 AM N-218  
 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-Westminster Shores 9:45 AM Church Bus  
 Children's Sunday School 10:00 AM S-103  
 Youth Sunday School 10:00 AM Youth Cntr  
 FPC Bus-Westminster Suncoast 10:00 AM Church Bus

FPC Bus-Presbyterian Towers 10:15 AM Church Bus  
 FPC Bus-Westminster Palms 10:30 AM Church Bus  
 Valet Parking 10:30 AM  
 Classic Worship with choir 11:00 AM Sanctuary  
 Yoga with Adam 3:00 PM F'shp Hall  
 Polar Express 5:00 PM F'shp Hall  
 Youth Christmas Lights Walk 5:00 PM Youth Cntr  
 Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 PM N-123

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care  
 PW Coordinating Team 9:00 AM S-100  
 Stephen Ministers 5:00 PM S-100  
 PCAT 6:00 PM N-123  
 Girl Scout Troop 94 6:30 PM S-206  
 Faith and Fiction 7:30 PM N-123

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care  
 Beth Moore Bible Study 9:15 AM Youth Cntr  
 Faith Development Bible Study 10:00 AM N-123

Church Staff Meeting 2:30 PM N-218  
 Girl Scout Troop 465 6:30 PM S-206  
 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 PM N-121

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care  
 Children's Chapel 9:15 AM F'shp Hall  
 MOPS 9:15 AM Youth Cntr  
 Kids' Choir 5:00 PM Choir Room  
 WNL Dinner 5:30 PM F'shp Hall  
 Messy Church/WNL Bible Study 6:00 PM F'shp Hall  
 AA for Women 7:00 PM N-121  
 Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM F'shp Hall

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6**

Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care  
 Chancel Bells Rehearsal 6:00 PM Choir Room  
 Girl Scout Troop 560 6:00 PM S-206  
 BSF Women's Bible Study 6:55 PM F'shp Hall  
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Choir Room

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**

Men's Sunrise Bible Study 7:30 AM N-123  
 Parents' Morning Out 9:00 AM Child Care  
 Day School Occupation Thpy 10:30 AM N-123  
 Bible Study Lunch Bunch 12:00 PM Off-site  
 Girl Scout Troop 560 6:30 PM S-206  
 Master Chorale Concert 7:00 PM Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8**

New Hope Christian Fellowship 5:30 PM Offsite  
 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 PM N-121

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Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti, Pastor ♦ Matt Clear, Director of Worship Music and the Arts ♦ Jonathan Rine, Contemporary Praise and Worship Leader ♦ Jack Rain, Organist ♦ David Aumack, Youth Coordinator ♦ Susan Key, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Carol Riley, Children's Ministry Coordinator ♦ 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.fpc-stpete.org](http://www.fpc-stpete.org) ♦ E-mail: [office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org)