



# First Presbyterian Church

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

December 16, 2018

11:00 a.m.

## Third Sunday of Advent

---

### 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

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" (hymn 108)

Wilbur Held  
(1914-2015)

"Prelude on *Divinum Mysterium*" (hymn 108)

T. Frederick H.

Candlyn

(1882-1064)

Jack Rain, organ

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come away to this place of rest and renewal; let your spirits rejoice in the presence of God.

**We will sing of God's steadfast love for all people. We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.**

God looks with favor on the humble and lowly.  
God's covenant does not focus on rank or position.  
**God strengthens those who are weak.**  
The proud are scattered in the thoughts of their hearts.  
Blessed are those who walk in God's light.  
Blessed are those who say "yes" to God's call.  
Let the heavens proclaim the wonders of God.  
Let all the earth rejoice in Christ's coming.

**INTROIT** "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" Elizabeth Poston  
Chancel Choir (1905-1987)

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 123**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" CAROL

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Joe Emerson, Elder

**PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Mary-Linda Armacost

Gracious God, in whom all things are possible, we confess that we have doubted what we cannot explain. We have sought strength and enjoyment apart from you. We have taken pride in ownership more than giving praise through stewardship. We have neglected to thank you, either in good times or when you have supported us during days of uncertainty. We have resisted the newness you offer. Forgive us, we pray, for installing ourselves as reigning deities. Lead us, rather, in paths of trust and obedience. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Mary-Linda Armacost

God does not turn away from steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. The Rock of our salvation keeps covenant with us despite our iniquity. God's mercy is for all who humbly seek it.

God fills the hungry with good things, but the rich are sent away empty. If we have chosen to receive forgiveness and to move away from self-absorption, we will understand God's pardon and live joyously within it.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Mary-Linda Armacost

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Please exchange signs of reconciliation and peace with those sitting around you.

## **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: Isaiah 7:10-16

Mary-Linda Armacost

(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 779)

Second Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

Dr. Dawn Conti

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 69)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SERMON**

"Mary"

Dr. Dawn Conti

### **PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

## RESPONSE

### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

### PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM** “Christmastime” Michael W. Smith, arr. Lloyd  
Larson

Chancel Choir with Chancel Handbells

Ring Christmas bells! Ring them loud with the message bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer. Come carolers, come and join with the angels singing joy to the world! Christmastime is here again. Children, gather around and listen. You'll hear the sound of angels filling the sky, telling everyone Christmastime is here. Ring Christmas bells! Ring them loud with the message bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer. Come carolers, come and join with the angels singing joy to the world! Christmastime is here again. Loved ones close to our hearts and strangers in lands afar together share in the joy. Emmanuel, he has come to dwell! With one voice let the world rejoice!

### \*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 113** “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland” BWV 661 (Come, Redeemer of Mankind; hymn 102) J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

December 16, 2018

---

---

## 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.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.

---

## 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: Millie Bradley, Phoebe Catlin, Kat Cline, Bill Davenport, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Jim and Petra Garnett, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall,



Claire Hoel, Hilman and Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Barbara Hubbell, Walter Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Glenice Kelley, Michael Liguori, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Anne Mulder, Tamara Murphy, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Bob and Jean Reed, Lee Scott, James Sharp, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, and Rev. Alice Winters.

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.

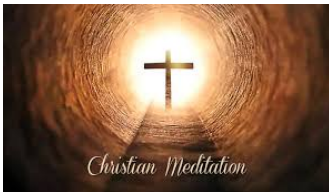
## PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE

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.

**CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING  
TODAY AFTER THE 11:00 SERVICE TO  
APPROVE THE CHANGES OF THE  
PASTOR'S CALL**

**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 18, 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.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE  
WILL START UP AGAIN AFTER THE  
FIRST OF THE YEAR. STAY TUNED FOR  
MORE INFORMATION.**

**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.

## 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 CONCERT TODAY AT 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. *See insert.*

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TIMES

Please make plans to attend one of the wonderful services this Christmas season. The children and family service will be at 4 p.m. in fellowship hall and the traditional candlelight service will be at 7 p.m. in the

sanctuary. There will be bus transportation provided for the Westminster and Presbyterian Towers communities. Please let the bus drivers know if you need transportation.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received Christmas Eve. Please show your support and gratitude for those who faithfully serve. By giving, you help provide critical financial assistance for Presbyterian workers in their time of need.

## CAROLS AROUND THE TABLE

Thank you Carol Riley for a wonderful event Sunday night. Thank you to those of you who decorated the beautiful tables and to those of you who performed.



## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

### ORDINATION 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	
<b>Classic Worship with choir</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>
Many Moods of Christmas Concert	4:00 PM	Sanctuary
Youth Group	5:00 PM	Youth Cntr
Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM	N-123

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Parents' Morning Out	9:00 AM	Child Care
Stephen Minister Meeting	5:00 PM	S-100
Girl Scout Troop 94	6:30 PM	S-206
PW Circle 9	7:30 PM	Off-site

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Parents' Morning Out	9:00 AM	Child Care
Children's Chapel	9:15 AM	F'shp Hall
Faith Development Bible Study	10:00 AM	N-123

Church Staff Meeting	2:30 PM	N-218
Stewardship Comm Meeting	6:00 PM	Pastors
		Stdy
Girl Scout Troop 465	6:30 PM	S-206
Meditation For Christians	7:00 PM	Chapel
Alcoholics Anonymous	7:30 PM	N-121

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Parents' Morning Out	9:00 AM	Child Care
DS Children's Chapel	9:15 AM	F'shp Hall
DS Children's Christmas Party	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 20

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
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Choir Room

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Men's Sunrise Bible Study	7:30 AM	N-123
Parents' Morning Out	9:00 AM	Child Care
Bible Study Lunch Bunch	12:00 PM	Off-site
Girl Scout Troop 560	6:30 PM	S-206
Youth Group Lock-In	8:00 PM	Youth Cntr

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Youth Group Lock-In	12:30 AM	Youth Cntr
Kid's Fun Day	9:00 AM	Youth Cntr
<b>New Hope Christian F'ship</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Offsite</b>
Alcoholics Anonymous	7:00 PM	N-121

---

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)