



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.

Fourth 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

"Noël X"

Louis Claude Daquin
(1694-1772)

Jack Rain, organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before the majesty of God, we gather to worship;
in quiet expectation, we come to hear God's promises.
This is where we belong; here we are warmly greeted.
Surely God will feed our deepest hunger.
Before God's strength and power, we bow down;
in hesitant anticipation, we listen for God's judgement.
This is our home, where our lives are redirected.

**Surely God will show us new ways to live.
Before the mercy of God, we lift our hearts;
in humble imagination, we welcome a new visitation.
This day God is present with us; we feel it.
Surely God is preparing for us a time of joy.**

INTROIT

**“Canticle of the Turning”
Chancel Choir**

**Irish melody
arr. Rory Cooney**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN 140**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Karen Kisten, Elder

PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Fran Sims

Merciful God, when we sense who you are, we are ashamed. How do you tolerate our pettiness? The abundance you have given us has made us proud more than thankful. We act as if our accomplishments were all our own doing. We seldom acknowledge your generosity or let you rule our lives. We go through the forms of worship, but we try to keep you at a safe distance. We fill our lives with status-producing activity that blocks out your call and limits our response. O God, we need to change. Please help us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Fran Sims

Those who allow themselves to know God are already in touch with God’s mercy. It is newly experienced every day. It is available to the least of us and the greatest. All whose spirits hunger for God discover how richly they have been fed. God has been doing great things for us. Let us commit the bodies God has given us to doing God’s will. May our spirits rejoice as we

magnify our God together.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Fran Sims

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.)

HYMN 129

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Fran Sims

(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 784)

Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-45; 56

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 & Elizabeth"

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

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” from *The Many* arr. Robert Shaw
Moods of Christmas, Suite Three and Robert Russell Bennett
Chancel Choir

*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 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Magnificat VI: Gloria (Finale)"
Marcel Dupré

(1886-1971)

December 23, 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.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, 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, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, and Rev. Alice Winters.

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

James Loeblein, USN; 1st LT. Taina Specie, USA; 2nd 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).

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.

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, January 8, 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). 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

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) 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 WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS



Congratulations to Matt Clear, Jack Rain, the Chancel Choir, the talented singers and musicians from

the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School and

the host of family and friends who supported this great event. The concert opened with a bang and stayed at that level throughout. The energy in the sanctuary was electric as people streamed in and filled the place to capacity. Thank you to those who ushered and greeted the community. We collected \$12, 575.92 through a goodwill offering to benefit the St. Pete Free Clinic.

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. *See insert.*

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that all contributions for the year 2018 must be received in the office by **December 31st** unless they are mailed to the church, in which case they must be postmarked by **December 31.**

PARKING AT THE VINOY HOTEL

For many years the Vinoy has fostered a great relationship with this church and we've done so toward them as well. One of the ways the Vinoy shows their appreciation is by allowing FPC members and attendees to park in their garage on Sunday mornings. Please utilize this gift. Entrance is on 7th Avenue.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS TO
ALL FROM THE
MANAGEMENT
AND STAFF OF
FPC!**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

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
Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 PM N-123

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

Church Office Closed
Children & Family Service 4:00 PM F'shp Hall
Candlelight Service 7:00 PM Sanctuary

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 PM N-121

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

AA for Women 7:00 PM N-121
Praise Band Rehearsal 7:00 PM F'ship Hall

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Kids' Fun Day 9:00 AM Child Care
Girl Scout Troop 560 6:00 PM S-206
PW Circle 5 7:00 PM S-100

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

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, DECEMBER 29

New Hope Christian F'ship 5:30 PM Offsite
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

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