



Service for the Lord's Day **The First Sunday in Advent**

December 2, 2018

8:30am

11:00am

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

(Luke 21:29-36)

601 North Vermont Street • Arlington, VA 22203

Tel: 703-527-4766 • Email: office@fpcarlington.org • Web: www.fpcarlington.org

Facebook: @FPCArlington

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you join us for this time of worship.

Please pardon our dust as work continues renovating our main floor restrooms, kitchenette and gathering space for this important hub of our church facilities. The work is expected to be completed in the next few weeks and will result in fully accessible restrooms and more welcoming spaces for members, friends and visitors to First Presbyterian. We apologize for the temporary inconveniences this project has created, and trust that the end result will make everything worthwhile.

First Presbyterian Church strives to be a welcoming and inclusive fellowship of believers united by our love of God and our service to the needs of the world. We are a diverse fellowship – meaning we don't all look, act, think or believe alike. We have different questions about our faith, differing ways of reading the Bible and differing passions and concerns. Still we stand together as one family every Sunday in the songs we sing, prayers we pray, and the bonds of fellowship that hold us together. We are always open to newcomers in our midst!

If You Are New Here:

Introduce yourself to any of our members and use the red Friendship Pad to let us know who you are and how to add you to our church email list for weekly updates about events in the church's life. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in all our ministries, so don't hesitate to get involved!

Please join us for **Coffee Hour** downstairs in the Social Hall after the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

During Today's Worship:

Large print hymnals and **hearing amplification devices** are available at both sanctuary entrances. The **church elevator** is accessible from the parking lot and sidewalk (southeast side of the church, nearest Carlin Springs Rd.) and reaches all floors of the church. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

The closest **restrooms** to the sanctuary are at the base of the stairs in the narthex (front lobby).

The **nursery** is located at the end of the main floor hallway. Trained attendants are on duty to care for our littlest ones. There is also a place for mothers to nurse in the nursery. All children are invited to come to the front of the sanctuary during the **"Time with the Children"** for a special message from the church's Children's Ministry Director. Children ages 3 through 1st grade are welcome to attend the **"Bridges to Worship"** during the remaining portion of the worship service. **Children's Bibles, story books** and **worship bags with age-appropriate bulletins** are available in the parking lot entrance hallway.

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

NOTE - Words in **bold** are to be said by the congregation. *Designates an invitation to stand.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes. Keep us vigilant, ever-watchful and faithful, and restless in our Advent waiting. In the name of Christ who was, and who is, and who is to come. Amen.

PRELUDE (8:30am)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR (8:30am)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00am) *Collect for Advent I* C Sumner Spaulding

OPENING SENTENCES

This is the day the Lord has made!

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

MINUTE FOR MISSION (11:00am)

Steph Wilson,
Store Manager, Ten Thousand Villages, Alexandria, VA

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT

8:30 – Audrey and Greg Morris

11:00 – Prisca Nzang and family

Today is the beginning of Advent – the preparation time for celebrating Christ's birth.

Why do we light this candle?

We light this first candle as a sign of hope for the coming of the Light of the world. Through the gift of hope we look forward to the day "when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4)

(The first candle is lit)

Thank you, God, that with the coming light of your son there is renewed hope for our world. Lift our hearts from the gloom of despair. Help us to be ready to welcome him by living in the hope of his coming. Amen.

*ADVENT CANDLE SONG: No. 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*
(first verse)

TIF IN VELDELE

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills his promise.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25):

Liturgists: Chris Taylor (8:30am)

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul!

Jason Howell (11:00am)

**O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore God instructs sinners in the way.**

The Lord leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep God's covenant and his decrees.**

Together let us worship the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION OF SIN:

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit our neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

(silent time of confession and reflection)

*KYRIE No 576: (8:30am)

Lord, Have Mercy

SINGAPURA

(Cantor first; Congregation repeats)

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

*KYRIE: (11:00am)

Lord, Have Mercy

George Oldroyd

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

Hear the good news of the gospel. God is the Alpha and the Omega who was at the beginning and will be at the end for all who seek him and love him. Believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 447

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00am)

Sarah Dianne Jones

BRIDGES TO WORSHIP No. 486 (11:00am) *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verse 2)*

KINGDOM

Child of love, our love's expression, love's creation, loved indeed!

Fresh from God, refresh our spirits; into joy and laughter lead.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT: (11:00am)

W. Neal Roseberry, AIA,
Principal, Lemay Erickson Willcox Architects

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON FROM THE EPISTLES:

I Thessalonians 3:9-13

Pew Bible, p. 204 NT

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS:

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible, pp. 85-86 NT

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

"Living With the End In Sight"

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*HYMN No. 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(from: A Brief Statement of Faith)

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Alleluia

Douglas Wagner

*RESPONSE No. 607:

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S 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 thanks and praise to the Lord.

O Lord our God, it is truly right and our greatest joy . . .

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, . . .

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

God of mercy, **“hear our prayer.”**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*CHORAL BENEDICTION *Wait for the Lord* Taizé

*PASSING OF THE PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you;
and also with you.

(Please extend the peace of Christ toward all those who are seated around you and to those whom you will meet in the week ahead)

POSTLUDE

WE DEPART TO SERVE

+Communion Instructions – Communion will be served by intinction. When you come forward to the communion servers, break off a small piece of the bread and dip it in the juice cup. The cup is filled with grape juice. A gluten-free bread substitute is available from the server who stands between the other servers. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, servers will be glad to bring the bread and juice to you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARDON OUR DUST – Our building renovation is almost complete! The church should be open for all activities this weekend, while the middle portion of the first-floor hallway will remain blocked for safety.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET IS TODAY! – The 2018 Alternative Christmas Market is being held in Yount Social Hall TODAY from 9:30am to 1pm. Put together your Christmas lists and join us downstairs in the social hall to shop for great gifts that also give back to the community. We have 20 vendors from around the globe: Ten Thousand Villages; olive oil, soap, wood carvings and embroidery from Pakistan; baskets, beads and crafts from Africa; fabric products that the mission trip brought back from Mexico; plus candles, baked goodies, and bean soup mixes from groups working with the underserved here in the States. See you there!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHILI SUPPER – Time to brush up on your caroling skills! If you don't sing, no worries - just come for the fun and fellowship! The Deacons invite you to join them for Christmas caroling at the homes of members and friends next **Sunday, December 9, 2018**. We'll meet at **4:00pm** at the church. All ages are welcome. After caroling, we'll return to the church for a delicious chili supper.

G. F. HANDEL NEEDS YOU! – Our Messiah event on December 15 at 5pm needs some behind-the-scenes talent. Please visit the SignUpGenius page to learn how you can help: <https://www.fpcarlington.org/signup>.

OUR LIGHT IS SHINING – Thank you to the more than 70 individuals and families that have made pledges to support the work of First Church in 2019. This is a terrific start to the campaign, with several pledging for the first time and many increasing their pledge. Have you made your pledge? If not, pledge cards are available in the pews. Your pledge enables church leadership to have confidence in creating a budget that allows the programs, mission, and worship of this church to grow and prosper. Give with joy in knowing that you are helping our church shine the light of Christ in Arlington.

GET INVOLVED AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

ADULT COVENANT GROUP: BIBLE AND BAGELS – Meets in the Pastor's Study each Thursday at 7am for fellowship, Bible discussion, prayer, and coffee. All are welcome to join us as we talk theology.

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH CLASSES – Sundays at 9:45am in Room 102. Concluding December 9: *Faith and Hope in Tumultuous Times* – The Adult class will explore how to find faith and hope through action rooted in Christian conviction. We will review past social movements and the leaders who grounded themselves in the Gospel. We'll see how the Gospel has played a role in social transformation. And, we'll discuss what it looks like to do the same today. The journey to justice can be a challenging and contested one. (*Please note: No Adult Spiritual Growth Class 12/2; classes will resume 12/9.*) On December 16 and 23 Rob Tobiassen will present *The Manger and the Shepherds – Visual Images*. Details next week and in the December *Scribe*.

AFAC FOOD DONATIONS DURING CONSTRUCTION – Yes, we continue to collect nonperishable foods for Arlington Food Assistance Center as we go through these renovations. Look for collection bins in the Narthex or Coat Room, maybe even in parking lot entry as space allows, and in the Social Hall after services. The client needs do not go away, so we will do our best to keep up our donations! Also, you can deliver fresh produce you grow, or make a cash donation. Here's how: go to <https://www.AFAC.org> and click on "DONATE" in the green bar for a listing of target non-perishable foods, as well as how to donate produce and make cash donations.

CHOIR – Our Choir typically rehearses each Sunday at 9:45am and the first and third Thursdays of each month from 7-9pm in the choir room. *New singers of all abilities welcome!* For more information contact Adam Graham at adam@fpcarlington.org.

CHURCH LADIES BOOK CLUB – Always open to newcomers. If you enjoy interesting discussions and good food, please consider joining us even if you haven't finished the book. No meeting in December. On January 28, 2019 we will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. We'll meet at the home of Maura Lensink, 7339 Barbour Ct., Falls Church 22043. Please bring a dish to share and let Maura know if you can come: 703 876-0470 or fraumaura@gmail.com.

MISSION TEAM – Give back to the community! Contact Austin Wiehe at awiehe@verizon.net or 703-677-4336 or reach out to a Mission Team member.

SOCIAL HOUR – Please sign up to bring the food for social hour on a forthcoming Sunday. Sign up at <https://www.fpcarlington.org/signup> or contact Julie Bosland at jbosland@comcast.net for more information.

VAN GO LUNCH – Van Go is a monthly gathering for an informal, no-host lunch for adults. We're taking a break during the month of December, but will resume in mid-January 2019. Contact Ruth Garfield at r.garfield@comcast.net or 703-536-5679 with questions.

YOUNG ADULTS – Please join us for exciting events. For more information contact Carly Horton at carlylynn.horton0423@gmail.com.

REMINDERS

ADVENT IN YOUR POCKET – The Worship Ministry Team has provided a daily advent devotional that will help you keep Christ in Christmas. It will fit in your briefcase, purse, or small pouch of your backpack and will lift your spirits during the advent season. Copies are available in the narthex.

EXPAND YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH – Did you know that you can support the church and its mission in ways that may offer you valuable tax benefits? Gift of appreciated stock receives a deduction at the current price with no capital gain penalties. Those over age 70 ½ can contribute tax-free from an IRA up to \$100,000. Giving in this way may allow you to make an extra gift to the church beyond what you otherwise might. For more information, speak to church treasurer Kathy Kobe.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Alternative Christmas Market	TODAY 9:30am Yount Social Hall
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 12/6, 7am Pastor's Study
Adult Choir Rehearsal	Thursday 12/6, 7pm Choir Room
Celebration of December Birthdays	Sunday 12/9, following 11:00am worship Yount Social Hall
Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper	Sunday 12/9, 4pm Meet at church, carol in community, supper in room 102
Board of Trustees' Meeting	Tuesday 12/11, 7:15pm At the home of Greg Morris
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 12/13, 7am Pastor's Study
Adult Choir Rehearsal	Thursday 12/13, 7pm Choir Room
Handel's <i>Messiah</i>	Saturday 12/15, 5pm Sanctuary
Deadline to order poinsettias	Sunday 12/16 Please see bulletin insert; contact Lynda Martin with questions at lbmlsm@yahoo.com or 703 536-5594
Young Adults Potluck Christmas Party	Sunday 12/16, 7pm At the home of Carly Horton
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 12/20, 7am Pastor's Study
First Roots Celebration	Sunday 1/6, following 11am worship service Yount Social Hall

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ellery Burgess (brother of Wells Burgess) for his care in assisted living.
Jim Cooke (Lynnette Yount's husband) being treated for cancer.
Esther Crosby (sister of Georgine Neureiter)
Virginia DeLange (sister of Carol Walker; aunt of Linda Hardy) in assisted living for dementia.
Rose Esposito (grandmother of Krystina Burke), battling lung cancer, and Clyde Payne (grandfather of Stephen Payne), suffering from dementia.
Janice Fain recovering from surgery at home at Brookdale, Arlington.
Anne and Art Frederickson moving soon to a retirement community in Richmond.
Anne Harrington (colleague of Jen Allen's) battling colon cancer.
Mary Helen Harris (wife of Bob Harris) undergoing cancer treatments.
Greg Leeper (son of John Leeper) in treatment for cancer.
John Leeper recovering from a stroke at home at the Hermitage, Alexandria.
Ase Lundgren for good health.
Emma (niece of Shandra Niswander) who is recovering from emergency kidney surgery.
Don and Marty Orth for heart- and age-related illnesses.
Lisa Osterheld (friend of Jack Madison & Debra Fowler) for good health & healing as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
Cathy Parham (friend of Janis McCollim and Phyllis Kayson, Templeton Condo) for health and healing from a stroke.
Beth Patterson (cousin of Carol Schadelbauer) diagnosed with cancer.
Mike Rivet and his family (brother-in-law of Margaret McGilvray) as Mike continues to battle stage 4 melanoma.
Caitlin Rivet (niece of Margaret McGilvray) as her foster baby Eddie undergoes surgery for a brain tumor and she awaits the treatment options.
Rohan (son of a friend of Dana Edwards), 8 year old recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.
Daniel Seitz for good health and healing.
Lee Taylor (brother of Al Taylor) battling cancer.
Bill Wyant (friend of Kathy Kobe) undergoing treatment for cancer.

Those in home-care or assisted living, including **Anne Horton** (wife of Jack Horton; Sunrise at Bluemont Park, James Building Room 303, 5910 Wilson Blvd.; visitors welcome), **Anne Neill** (Brookdale Arlington, 3821 Wilson Blvd.) **Lois Potter** (Gainesville Health & Rehabilitation Center, Fairview Unit, Room 218-Door), and **Kevin Talley** (Fairfax Rehabilitation and Nursing Center).

Those serving in the Armed Forces abroad including: **Calvin Hubbard**, nephew of Jane Dunphy, member of the Army Special Forces on assignment in Syria; **Daniel O'Loughlin**, grandson of Don and Marty Orth, in Italy.

LEADERSHIP AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Head of Church Jesus Christ
 Ministers All of our members
 Pastor The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle, Email: bryan@fpcarlington.org
 Telephone: (703) 888-7997
 Regular office hours: Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 1pm
 and other times by appointment
 Liturgists Chris Taylor (8:30am)
 Jason Howell (11:00am)
 Director of Music Ministries Adam Graham, Email: adam@fpcarlington.org
 Director of Children and Youth Ministries Sarah Dianne Jones, Email: sarahdianne@fpcarlington.org
 Church Office Administrator Sheri Langham, Email: office@fpcarlington.org
 Childcare Jeaneth Andrade, Amanda Escalante & Leticia Herbas
 Financial Secretary Juanita Jernigan
 Trustees on Duty Greg Morris and Chris Taylor
 Ushers Kent Brown (8:30am)
 Lynda Martin, Lee Martin, Ray Gold, Lynda Hill, Diana Warmann, and Craig Wulf (11:00am)
 Parish Associates Rev. Madeline Jervis
 Rev. Donna Weddle

CONNECT WITH US

 **FACEBOOK:** First Presbyterian Church of Arlington has a Facebook page. We would like for folks to join our group to keep up with prayer concerns, events, etc. in the church life. The name of the group is **FPCarlington**. "Like" us today!

 **TWITTER ACCOUNT:** Tweet Us! First Presbyterian Church has a twitter address; @fpc_arlington. You can see the account at: https://www.twitter.com/fpc_arlington.



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