



Service for the Lord's Day The Second Sunday in Advent

December 9, 2018

8:30am

11:00am

“Celebrating Advent means being able to wait. Waiting is an art that our impatient age has forgotten. It wants to break open the ripe fruit when it is hardly finished planting the shoot. But all too often the greedy eyes are only deceived; the fruit that seemed so precious is still green on the inside, and disrespectful hands ungratefully toss aside what has so disappointed them. Whoever does not know the austere blessedness of waiting – that is, of hopefully doing without – will never experience the full blessing of fulfillment.”

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letters and Papers from Prison, 1943)

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 next week 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 our salvation, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE (8:30am)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR (8:30am)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00am)

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

LANCASHIRE

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

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE IN OUR ADVENT WREATH:

8:30 – Louise Shutler

11:00 – Youth Group Members

Today is the second Sunday in Advent. This is the time of preparation for celebrating Christ's birth.

Why do we light this candle?

We light this candle as a sign of peace for the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. We are preparing ourselves for the days when:

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)

As we prepare the way for Christ's birth, we light the candle of peace to help bring light into the darkness of the world's conflicts and struggles.

(The second candle is lit)

Thank you, God, that with the coming light of your Son, peace has gained a foothold in our world where there is conflict, strife and war. Prepare us to receive the gift of peace into our own troubled hearts that we may welcome the long-awaited Prince of Peace. Amen.

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

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them homeward.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 40:3-6):

Liturgists: Chris Taylor (8:30am)
Jean Vallianos (11:00am)

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.**

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

**A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”**

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.**

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Together let us worship and praise the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 96

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION OF SIN:

**God of the prophets: you have called us to glorify your Name by the quality of our love
for one another. We confess that we are quicker to praise you with our lips than with
our lives. We profess repentance, but resist change. We talk about peace, but
prepare for war. We sing of love, but curse our enemies. We pray for your will to be
done, but insist on our own way. Have mercy upon us, O God, and forgive our selfish
ways. Make our rough places smooth and our crooked ways straight. May our
warfare come to an end through the coming of your Son.**

(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:
The word of the Gospel is Good News!
It is Good News indeed!
O Lord, open our lips.
**And our mouths shall declare Thy praise.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL
(refrain)
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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.**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4 Pew Bible, pp. 889-890 OT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 3:1-6 Pew Bible, p. 60 NT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "The Refiner's Fire" The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*HYMN No. 163 *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice* ABERYSTWYTH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ exposes the evil in humanity as sin in the sight of God. In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives, turn against God and their fellow human beings, and become exploiters and despoilers of the world. They lose their humanity in futile striving and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation. . . .God's love never changes. Against all who oppose the divine will, God expresses his love in wrath. In the same love, God bore judgment and shameful death in Jesus Christ, to bring all people to repentance and new life.

(from: The Confession of 1967)

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (8:30am service) (please refer to the communion insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Advent Procession in Blue

Pepper Choplin

*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

*HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY were donated by Aromie Noe in loving memory of Kent Rogers, Halsey's mother.

PARDON OUR DUST – Our building renovation is almost complete! The church should be open for all activities this weekend and work should wrap up next week.

WE WELCOME RAYMOND AGBOKA into the membership of First Church.

TODAY: HONORING DECEMBER OCCASIONS – WITH CAKE! – The Deacons invite everyone to celebrate members and friends with birthdays and other special events this month. Please join us in Yount Social Hall (downstairs) after today's worship service.

TODAY: ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING & CHILI SUPPER – Today is the day that all carolers and chili fans have been waiting for! The Deacons invite you to join them for Christmas caroling at the homes of members and friends. We'll be meeting here at the church this afternoon at **4:00pm**. All ages are welcome! After caroling, we'll return to the church for a 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 75 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.

CELEBRATION – Please stay after the 10am service on Sunday, 12/30 as we will have some sweet treats to celebrate Sarah Dianne's birthday and mark the end of her first full calendar year at First Presbyterian Church of 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 today: *Faith and Hope in Tumultuous Times*. On December 16 and 23 Rob Tobiassen will present *The Manger and the Shepherds – Visual Images*. Perhaps our earliest memories of Christmas are the manger scene and shepherds (other than maybe a favorite gift under the tree). Church sanctuaries display nativity scenes, we decorate our homes with a creche, and of course our kids play these roles in Christmas pageants. This two week Advent Season class will look at our familiar decorations of the Manger and the Shepherds. Next Sunday, December 16, class participants are strongly invited to bring a favorite manger or Holy Family piece or a Shepherd piece from home and share why it is important to them. Then we will look at photographs of Bethlehem and the field where the shepherds were with their flocks.

The Franciscan Order of the Holy Lands maintains the grounds which they believe are the fields. We will talk about the simplicity of the manger story and the shepherds and compare it to the ornamentation of today at these sites. This class is meant to simply be fun. The only "heavy stuff" will be interspersed between both Sundays to make us think about the difference between symbols of Advent and Christmas and idiolect images. For Advent is a time of contemplation while we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

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 Coat Room, 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.

FLOWERS FOR CHANCEL – We need flower sponsors for December 23 and 30 and into the new year. You can sign up for either two arrangements (\$50) or one (\$25). You can indicate who you would like to dedicate them to as well as if you would like to pick them up after the service or donate them. Sign up on the church sign up website: <https://www.fpcarlington.org/signup>, and place a check with "flowers" in the memo line into the offering plate. If you have any questions or if you can't access the SignUpGenius page, please contact [Kristen Boehme](mailto:Kristen.Boehme@fpcarlington.org) at 703-474-3681 or the [church office](mailto:church.office@fpcarlington.org) at 703-527-4766.

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, including a Potluck Christmas Party Sunday, December 16 at 7pm at Carly Horton's home. 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.

THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS who have tirelessly provided refreshments and snacks for the social hour following each service this year. Given that our members live all over the metro area, this time of sharing food provides an important opportunity to connect with our church community. Please consider signing up today to provide light snacks. You can sign up and find instructions at: <https://www.fpcarlington.org/signup>. Thank you! – Julie Bosland and the Fellowship Team: (703) 408-4612 or jbosland@comcast.net.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Celebration of December Birthdays and Other Special Occasions	TODAY following 11:00am worship Yount Social Hall: Cake and punch and merriment courtesy of our Deacons
Christmas Caroling and Chili Supper	TODAY at 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
Worship Team Meeting	Wednesday 12/12, 7pm Room 102
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; reception to follow
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; contact Carly at carlylynn.horton0423@gmail.com
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 12/20, 7am Pastor's Study
Church Office Closed	Tuesday and Wednesday 12/25 and 12/26; Monday and Tuesday 12/31 and 1/1
One Service of Worship	Sunday 12/30, 10am Sanctuary; followed by Social Hour in Yount Social Hall
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 moved this week to a retirement community outside Richmond. (2104 Camelia Circle, Unit #C-411, Midlothian, VA 23112)
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 the rehabilitation center of 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)
 Jean Vallianos (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 Lynda Hill
 Trustees on Duty Cory Underdown and Lynnette Yount
 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.





Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda!
 The church reformed and always to be reformed
 Website: www.pcusa.org



Website: www.covnetpres.org



Inviting the World  Empowering the People  Embodying God's Grace