



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

December 16, 2018

8:30am

11:00am

Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

(Luke 1:65-66)

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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.

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). Other restrooms are located on the main-floor hallway on the right just past the parking lot stairwell.

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.

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle, Pastor • bryan@fpcarlington.org • 703-888-7997

Adam Graham, Director of Music Ministries • adam@fpcarlington.org

Sarah Dianne Jones, Director of Children and Youth Ministries • sarahdianne@fpcarlington.org

Sheri Langham, Church Office Administrator • office@fpcarlington.org

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION:

Bend low, O God, from the heights of holiness and from the heart's center, and look mercifully upon us who, dwelling amid the insecurities of this mortal life, are tempted to guard every advantage and keep everything as if our life could be guaranteed by what we have or what we enjoy. Help us to discover again that bread broken with one in need it bread shared with thee. Make our hearts open-handed, and if it imperils the petty securities of habit and place, let it be to the saving of our souls, in Christ's name. Amen.

(From: *What Child is This?*, Samuel Miller, p. 19)

PRELUDE (8:30am)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR (8:30am)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00am)

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

LANCASHIRE

OPENING SENTENCES

Worship the Lord with gladness,

And enter the Lord's presence with songs of joy.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE IN OUR ADVENT WREATH:

8:30 – Arison and Sonia Andriamalala and Family

11:00 – Pete and Darla Hause

Today is the third Sunday in Advent. On the first two Sundays we lit the candles of hope and peace.

Why do we light this candle?

The third candle is the candle of joy. On this Sunday we recall the message of the angels to the shepherds, "Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people."

Because of the coming of Jesus into our world, we can rejoice, celebrate and sing with joy in our hearts to the glory of God. Even now we rejoice in the light that this candle brings into our world.

(The third candle is lit)

Let us pray:

O Lord, as Christmas draws near, we can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still for some, this is a difficult time because of sadness in their lives. Grant to us a sense of joy that does not depend on earthly happiness, but which comes from your nearness. May our joy be complete in the coming of your Son. Amen.

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

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,
For the King of Glory.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 113):

Liturgists: Louise Shutler (8:30am)
Michael Bruno (11:00am)

Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD;

Praise the name of the LORD.

Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**The LORD is high above all nations,
and God's glory above the heavens.**

Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

**who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**

The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

**to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**

The Lord gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

Together let us worship and praise the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 102

Savior of the Nations, Come NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION OF SIN:

Loving God, we confess that we have become so frenzied in our activities that we no longer see your labor in the earth, but intent upon our own work, grow blind to thine. We have changed so many things that we are not conscious of the unchanging. We are building up and tearing down, anxious only for the advantage of the hour. Our striving has earned so much, that we cannot believe that your best gifts are free. We beseech you, therefore, O God, to reveal yourself anew, that our souls may once again be revived by the sound of your still small voice and the knowledge of your glory.

(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:
Sisters and brothers, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the good news of the gospel.
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

FIRST LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 1:5-23 Pew Bible, p. 56 NT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 1: 24-25; 57-66 Pew Bible, pp. 56, 57 NT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "The Other Miraculous Birth" The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*HYMN No. 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

(from: *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

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 Jubilate

Larry Shackley

*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. 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

*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 Janet Pence in memory of First Pres Choir Member Marilyn Graham who rocked the Soprano descants!

MANY THANKS to those that attended, supported, or contributed financially to our first ever *Messiah* Worship Service. None of it would be possible without your help and the countless volunteers that worked diligently behind the scenes to make this a success: our choir, Worship Ministry Team, Staff, Session, Trustees, Outreach Ministry Team, Mission Team, parking assistants, ushers, reception leaders, brainstormers and proofreaders.

THE CHRISMONS – The Chrismon decorations on our sanctuary trees are symbols of Christianity and the idea of these decorations originated with a Lutheran woman, Frances Spencer, from Danville, Va. in the 1950's. She believed that the church sanctuary decoration should represent Jesus and his symbols. She also created the word "Chrismon", combining the word Christ and monogram, or symbol. It is traditional that Christian groups make their own Chrismons of white and gold — white being the liturgical color for Christmas and gold representing the majesty of Christ. The symbols we have used include the fish, the scallop shell (for baptism), the crown (Christ is king), the Jerusalem cross (the Crusaders), the anchor (Christ is the anchor of faith), the candle (Christ is the light of the world) and others.

All the Chrismons on our trees have been made by our own congregation over the past few years. If you'd like to make one, we have the materials and would welcome some additions. Please call Georgine Neureiter.

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT of the programs of First Church. It is the generosity of all of you that makes those programs possible. If you still plan to provide a pledge for the 2019 operations of the church, it would be helpful for us to have that information as soon as possible as we are finalizing budgets for next year. Many people make their regular donations through their bank's bill pay program and do not need offering envelopes. If that describes you please let the Treasurer know at kathryn.kobe@yahoo.com.

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!

WE DID IT! LET'S CELEBRATE! – As a Church we planned it, funded it, and our successful First Roots Capital Campaign is done. We gather on January 6, after the second service, to celebrate a building ready to welcome new members and move forward with our missions. Our commitment is solid. Please join us in the Social Hall for the celebration and an overall fun time!

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. Today and December 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.

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS FOR AFAC CLIENTS – Over 80,000 pounds of food are distributed weekly to Arlington Food Assistance Center's nearly 2,000 family clients. Please continue to help meet this growing need with your donations of non-perishable foods. The bins are in our Welcome Hall under the counter. Some favored foods include low-sugar cereals and low-sodium canned tomatoes, tuna, beans and soups. Thank you.

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 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](tel:703-527-4766) 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 today 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.

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 30 – We will worship at 10am on the Sunday after Christmas. This service will not include communion.

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

Deadline to order poinsettias	TODAY Please see bulletin insert; contact Lynda Martin with questions at lbmlsm@yahoo.com or 703 536-5594
Young Adults Potluck Christmas Party	TODAY, 7pm At the home of Carly Horton; contact Carly at carlylynn.horton0423@gmail.com
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 12/20, 7am Pastor's Study
Stated Meeting of the First Church Session	Thursday 12/20, 7pm Parlor
Adult Choir Rehearsal	Thursday 12/20, 7pm Choir Room
Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal	Saturday 12/22, 9:30am Sanctuary
Joy Gift Special Offering	Sunday 12/23, during worship services Sanctuary
Christmas Eve Services	Monday 12/24: Family Worship Service 5pm Lessons & Carols 7:30pm Lessons & Carols with Communion 11pm
Church Office Closed	Tuesday and Wednesday 12/25 and 12/26; Monday and Tuesday 12/31 and 1/1
PLEASE NOTE: 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 recently 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 Orth in the hospital.
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.
Kenneth Ray (brother of Janice Ellsworth) dealing 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 Louise Shutler (8:30am)
 Michael Bruno (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 Clint Brass
 Trustees on Duty Cory Underdown and Kent Brown
 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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