



**Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday after Christmas**

December 30, 2018
10:00am

“The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.”

(J.I. Packer)

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** in the Welcome Hall after the 8:30 service or downstairs in the Social Hall after the 11:00 service.

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:

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

OPENING SENTENCES

This is the day that the Lord has made!

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 148):

Liturgist: Michael Bruno

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for God commanded and they were created.

The Lord established them forever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and women alike,
old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;

**Praise for all his faithful,
for the people who are close to him.**

Together let us worship and praise the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(verses 1-3)

REGENT SQUARE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION OF SIN:

**God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your
grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

(silent time of confession and reflection)

*KYRIE No 576:

Lord, Have Mercy

SINGAPURA

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

*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS:

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe and trust in the good news of
Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(verse 4)

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ the new-born king!**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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

LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS:
The Word of the Lord.

Luke 15:1-3a

Pew Bible, p. 78 NT

Thanks be to God.

STORY:

"A Prodigal Christmas"

The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*HYMN No. 148

Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple

EVENING HYMN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all people.

(from: The Confession of 1967)

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

*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. 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*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

WE THANK IRVIN PETERSON, GUEST ORGANIST, whose playing enhances our worship today.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY were donated by Sally Gousen in celebration of God's gift of Jesus Christ.

CELEBRATION TODAY – Please stay after the 10am service today 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!

BOXES AND BINS NEEDED – The Worship Ministry Team is reorganizing materials in the Bell Cave and needs large boxes or bins with handles. Copier paper-sized containers or bigger are preferable, and bins can be opaque or see-through. Please drop off in front of the Bell Cave on or before Saturday, January 5th. Thanks!

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 next week, 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. No class today – classes will resume in January 2019, when Pastor Mickle will lead us in reading, studying, and discussing the Rev. Martin Luther King's *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*.

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. 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. Upcoming dates and books are February 25: *The Brightest Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying* by Nina Riggs; March 25: *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson; April 29: *Varina* by Charles Frazier.

FLOWERS FOR CHANCEL – We need flower sponsors 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. All are welcome. Please join us for our next lunch on Thursday, January 17, 2019. We'll be meeting at the church in the newly remodeled Welcome Hall at 11:30am and carpooling to Anthony's Restaurant in Falls Church. (The November lunch at Anthony's was cancelled due to inclement weather, but this time we're hoping for clear skies!). Please RSVP to Ruth Garfield at r.garfield@comcast.net or 703-536-5679.

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

REMINDERS

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? A 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

One Service of Worship; No Adult Spiritual Growth Class	TODAY 10am Sanctuary; followed by Social Hour in Yount Social Hall
Celebration of Sarah Dianne's Birthday and First Full Year at First Presbyterian	TODAY following 10am worship Yount Social Hall
Church Office Closed: Happy New Year!	Monday 12/31 and Tuesday 1/1
Board of Deacons' Meeting	Wednesday 1/2, 7:30pm Room 103
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 1/3, 7am Pastor's Study
Youth Holiday Party	Friday 1/4, 7pm Youth Room
CYMT Epiphany Party	Saturday 1/5, 10am Youth Room
Faith Shares! Kicks Off	Sunday 1/6
First Roots Celebration	Sunday 1/6, following 11am worship service Yount Social Hall
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 1/10, 7am Pastor's Study
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday 1/15, 7:30pm Room 103
Outreach Team Meeting	Wednesday 1/16, 7:30pm Room 103
Adult Covenant Group	Thursday 1/17, 7am Pastor's Study
Van Go Lunch: Anthony's Restaurant	Thursday 1/17, 11:30am Church Welcome Hall / carpool to restaurant
ESL Volunteer Orientation	Thursday 1/17, 7pm Room 102
Stated Meeting of the First Church Session	Thursday 1/24, 7pm Room 103
Discovering First Church	Sunday 1/27, 12:30pm Room 102

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)
Midge Curry recovering from a broken ankle.
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.
Diane Hamilton (sister-in-law of Carol Schadelbauer) in treatment for cancer.
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.
Lisa Osterheld (friend of Jack Madison & Debra Fowler) for good health & healing as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
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

Liturgist Michael Bruno
 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 Cory Underdown, Brian Neumann, and Lynnette Yount
 Ushers Lynda Martin, Lee Martin, Ray Gold, Lynda Hill, Diana Warmann, and Craig Wulf
 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

