



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

December 23, 2018

8:30am

11:00am

Then Mary said:

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word.”

(Luke 1:38)

601 North Vermont Street • Arlington, VA 22203

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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** in the Church Parlor 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:

God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE (8:30am)

CHIMING OF THE HOUR (8:30am)

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00am) *O Thou That Tellest*

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 FOURTH CANDLE IN OUR ADVENT WREATH:

8:30 – Herman Narcho, Michael and Mariana Long

11:00 – Bill, Anne and Danielle De Lanoy

Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Over the past three Sundays we lit the candles of hope, peace, and joy

Why do we light this candle?

Today we light the candle that represents God's love for the world. The Bible tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but will have eternal life." By lighting this candle we believe that that the one who comes to us on Christmas Day is the greatest expression of God's love for the whole world. "Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another."

(The fourth candle is lit)

O God, today, more than ever, we need your love in our world and in our hearts. We thank you that you still love us and still send Jesus into our broken world. Let his coming find us eager to let go of old grudges, hostilities, and resentments so that his love may find a welcome home in our hearts. Come to us in this Advent and bind us together in your love. Amen.

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

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46-55):

Liturgists: Louise Shutler (8:30am)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, Kathy Kobe (11:00am)
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

**He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

**He has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

Together let us worship and praise the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*CONFESSION OF SIN:

Almighty God, in mercy you have humbled yourself to enter our confused and broken world. Come, we pray, as Christ came, with healing and with peace. You will find us proud, for we have not learned what it means to be humble. You will find us guarded and defensive, for we are weak within and full of fear. You will find us irritable and arrogant, for we have not been willing to admit our sin. While we act like ones who have no needs, we know in our hearts how much we need your mercy, peace and love. Lord Jesus, meekest of all kings, come again and save us.

(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, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH
(verse 3)

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00am) Sarah Dianne Jones

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FOR LISTON COURTNEY GILLISPIE:

Son of Drew and Alice Gillispie, brother Oliver Gillispie

WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH:

God has now affirmed Liston as part of God's family. Together let us welcome him into the household of God.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you to share with us in the ministry of Christ,
for we are all one in him.**

*HYMN OF WELCOMING No. 486 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* (verses 1 and 4) KINGDOM

**Child of blessing, child of promise,
Baptized with the Spirit's sign,
With the water God has sealed you
Unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent,
Learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,
Trust and love God more than all.**

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: Isaiah 7:10-16a Pew Bible, p. 636 OT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

LESSON FROM THE GOSPELS: Luke 1:26-38 Pew Bible, pp. 56, 57 NT
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "Conceived By the Holy Spirit:
The Mystery of the Virgin Birth" The Rev. Dr. Bryan Mickle

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

*HYMN No. 98 *To A Maid Whose Name Was Mary* ANNUNCIATION

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

(The Apostles' Creed)

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

Ave Maria
Ruth Lederle, Pianist
Adam Graham, Baritone

Luigi Luzzi

*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. 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*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 Louise Shutler in gratitude for the staff: Bryan, Sarah Dianne, Adam, Sheri, Amanda, Jeaneth, Leticia, and Adelaide; and the choir – who are all working diligently to make a beautiful, loving Christmas-tide.

INVITATION FROM IGLESIA – Reverend Teddy Rocha, Reverend Karen Hernandez, and the congregation of Iglesia Cristiana Libertad Sin Fronteras invites everyone from First Presbyterian to Iglesia's special Christmas Service this evening, December 23, beginning at 6:30pm in Yount Social Hall.

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.

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 NEXT WEEK – 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. (No class 12/30.) Today Rob Tobiassen presents *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 Advent Season class will look at our familiar decorations of the Manger and the Shepherds.

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. 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](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. For more information contact Carly Horton at carlylynn.horton0423@gmail.com.

REMINDERS

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 30 – We will worship at 10am next Sunday, December 30. This service will not include communion and no Adult Spiritual Growth class will be held.

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

Joy Gift Special Offering	TODAY 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 No Adult Spiritual Growth Class	Sunday 12/30, 10am Sanctuary; followed by Social Hour in Yount Social Hall
Celebration of Sarah Dianne's Birthday and First Full Year at First Presbyterian	Sunday, 12/30, following 10am worship 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)
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.
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.
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
 Liturgists Louise Shutler (8:30am)
 Kathy Kobe (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 Eric Hsieh
 Trustees on Duty Greg Morris, Bill Hershberger 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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 The church reformed and always to be reformed
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Inviting the World  Empowering the People  Embodying God's Grace