

First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

Welcome



Sermon: “*The Kingdom of God Is Near*”

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First Advent Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



If you are interested in learning more about our church, or wish to become active in our ministry teams and activities, please visit our website at fpcConroe.org. There you can fill out the visitor form online, or you can do so now by visiting our welcome desk. We appreciate you joining us for services today.

~ Good Things to Know ~

Today's Worship Leader

Martha Haines

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the Corbit family in memory of Nicole and Alex Corbit..

Last Week's Attendance, November 24

[Thanksgiving Worship Service - 42]

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 21

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 142

Online Worship Attendance - 35

Total Attendance – 198

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord,
And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.
God has done great things. Holy is God's name!
God's love is from generation to generation!

*Hymn #5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone. In Christ, we are accepted. In Christ, we are loved. In Christ, we are set free.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-31

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Kingdom of God Is Near”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)
2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)
3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

*Introit (Hymn #9)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

3. O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Lighting of Advent Wreath Candles Jenny Peterson, Dr. and Mrs. Bailey

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the very imprint of God's own
being.**

Night and day we pray that God will strengthen us in holiness and love.

(Lighting of the Hope candle)

Thanks be to God for this good news of great joy!

*Please stand if able.

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.
4. At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, there is so much going on right now. Between shopping lists and Christmas parties, we easily lose sight of the purpose of the season. Forgive us for obsessing over the little things that trouble us; and hold us accountable for not fretting enough over the big things that should trouble us. We can check our lists twice and deck our halls with boughs of holly, but we can too easily forget that your Son came into a world that had no room for him. We forget that you entrusted your life to a peasant girl and her questionable teenage pregnancy, and we can't believe that you would enter the world on such scandalous terms.

Forgive us for getting caught up, carried away, and distracted by the trappings of this passing world. By your mercy and grace, help us to let go of our grudges, to give each other the benefit of the doubt, to live in hope, and to work to bring the best out in each other. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone. In Christ, we are accepted. In Christ, we are loved. In Christ, we are set free.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What Child is This

I James

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Christmas Grace

Schram

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-31

Sermon

“The Kingdom of God Is Near”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Anthem

Christmastime

Larson

Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Anthem *Away in a Manger*

(FPC Handbells and guest orchestra)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Charge and Benediction

*Sending Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching

O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger

The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. **And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."**

Luke 21:25-31

²⁵ **"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.** ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ **Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.** ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹ **Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;** ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.



Called Congregational Meeting on December 8

There will be a Called Meeting of the Congregation on December 8th, after the 11:00 service, to receive the Nominating Committee's report and to elect church officers. Please plan to join us.

The Children's Pageant: Help Needed

The Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th, during the 11:00 worship service. We need lots of little angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men to recreate the Holy Night for the congregation. Practices will be held on December 1 and December 8 at 12:30 p.m. and at 7:00 p.m. (after The Spark) for those who can't make the afternoon practice. This is an invitation for any elementary-aged student, who would like to participate, to contact Dena Sowden at (979) 255-2096 or DSowden@fpcconroe.org.

Life Line Screening at FPC on December 18

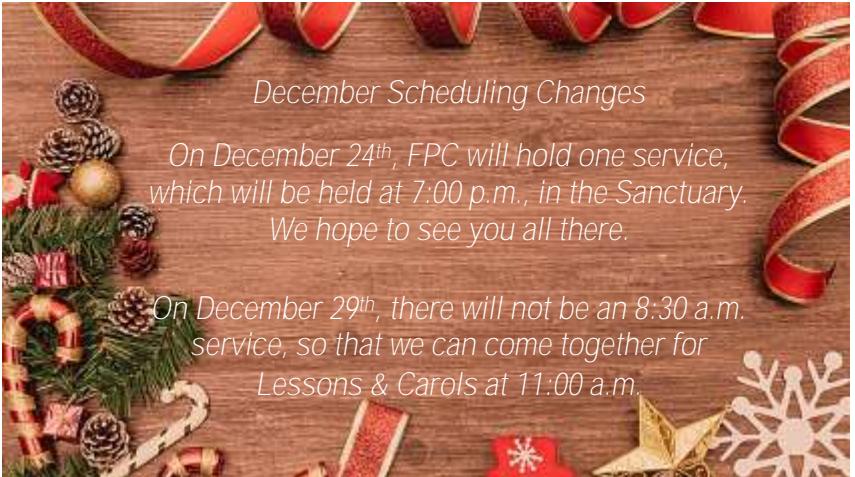
There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Wednesday, December 18, at First Presbyterian Church Conroe.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.





December Scheduling Changes

On December 24th, FPC will hold one service, which will be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you all there.

On December 29th, there will not be an 8:30 a.m. service, so that we can come together for Lessons & Carols at 11:00 a.m.

White Elephant Party

This is an opportunity for young adults to get to know one another in a relaxed environment with food and fun. Each gift should be less than \$20. Please RSVP so that we can provide adequate child care.



Prayer List

Members: Roy Kessler, Penny Bell, the family of Powell Campbell, Judy Weinburger and family, Ruth Masters, Paula Shepherd, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, Joe Clark, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: George G., Karl W. (Watt), Ted M. (Rose), C.M. (Blott), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Thad M. (West), Danielle S. & kids, Kelly D., Stephanie R. (Riggs-Harpur), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Bonnie L., Michael R. (Dwyer), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Tony N. (Spinks), Aimee L. (Amoneno), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Lindsey W. (Walker), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr and caregivers, Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Kim H. (Ganek), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), William W. (Weinburger), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)

For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candee

Greetings from Reverend Callie Candee! I'm so grateful to have been asked to assist with pastoral care duties here at First Presbyterian Church-Conroe. I'll be available for phone and home visits. I'm carrying the church's emergency phone and can be contacted directly at (936) 290-4535.



Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday December 1</i>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next-A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age." 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday December 2</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday December 4</i>	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)

<p style="font-style: italic; margin: 0;">Sunday December 8</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next-A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age." 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

- December 8 Called Congregational Meeting
- December 9-13 FPC hosts Family Promise
- December 15 **Children's Christmas Pageant**
- December 18 Lifeline Screening Event at FPC
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
- December 25-26 Christmas Observance (Church office closed)
- January 1 **New Year's Day (Church office closed)**
- January 7 PDS classes resume



Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care

Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education

Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications

Yvonne Rose, Office Manager

Bonnie Hernandez, Music Director

Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist

Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping

Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse



First Presbyterian Church

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