

December 15, 2019

11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in Advent SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME

We're delighted that you're here! Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whomever you love, whatever your faith or your doubts, we welcome all whom God welcomes, and that means you.

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* arr. C. Uehlein

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *We are gathering cloth for the manger this Advent season. Today's theme is "Rejoice!" On the strip of cloth you received, please write something in your life that brings you joy.*

INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Neiman Family

My soul magnifies the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
God sends good news to the oppressed.
As we light the third candle of Advent,
We rejoice in the promise of Christ's coming reign.

The third candle is lighted while singing:

*RESPONSE, 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come, v. 3* WAITING (Cason)
***Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.***

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in Christ you send glad tidings of great joy, but we don't trust good news to be good. We fixate on the cruelties of this world, but dismiss acts of human kindness as fluff. We look askance at gifts, expecting hidden strings. We tamp down our joy, fearing a backlash. Forgive us, O God, and relieve our fear. Restore our faith so that we can rejoice in your gifts of goodness that surround us now, as well as those we await with hope and expectation. In silence, we turn to you...

*KYRIE 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*

***O Lord, Have mercy; O Christ, have mercy;
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us!***

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA 583 *Gloria, Gloria* GLORIA(Taizé)

***Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.***

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with: "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *He is Born* arr by Trevor Manor

FOCUS ON MISSION *Christmas Joy Offering* Blake Westbrook

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD ENACTED Luke 2:1-18

*Many thanks to our children and youth who proclaim the Word today,
and to Cherith Parrish, our pageant director.*

Caesar Augustus: Walker Brouwer

Narrator: Parker Neiman

Solo: Ruby Neiman

Mary: Tegan Burkett

Joseph: John Weston Baker

Innkeeper: Michael Neiman

Shepherds: Wright Baker, Walker Brouwer, Thomas Burkett,
Nathan Tucker

Sheep: Landon Brown, Gillian Goodrich, Maggie Westbrook,
Madeline Perry, Eli Hall, Maxwell Brouwer

Star: Stella Greene

Angels: Maddie Goodrich, Ruby Neiman, Esme Brouwer, Ruby Hall,
Gracie Marble, Addison Marble, Evie Marble

REFLECTION Rev. Terry Hamilton-Poore

*HYMN 800 *Sometime a Light Surprises* SALLEY GARDENS

DEDICATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Part of your offering today is the gift of your presence. Please acknowledge your presence by signing the welcome book at the end of your row. To be directed to our online giving site, please use your smartphone to scan here:



THE OFFERTORY *Now the Green Blade Riseth* Michael McCabe

*THE DOXOLOGY 608

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise triune God, whom we adore.***

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise....

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices
with the faithful of every time and place, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might—
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again....

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.

*COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

To receive, please come forward to the station nearest you, take a piece of bread, dip it in the juice, and eat. The center station contains gluten-free, dairy free bread. As you come forward, please bring your cloth for the manger and leave it in the basket by the baptismal font.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*SUNG BENEDICTION 115

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

*POSTLUDE *Hark, the Angels Sing* arr. T. Prentiss

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

**We celebrate that our newly confirmed church members are leading the lighting of the Advent candles this year.

WE WELCOME VISITORS Your presence enriches our community. We hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. To learn more about opportunities for spiritual growth and service, visit us on the web at www.fpcbham.org.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME, our Session meets on the *first Sunday of the month* in the Chapel following the 11:00 worship service to welcome new members. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope you will make First your home.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's bags and bulletins are available in the Narthex (ushers can locate them for you). Please empty and return the bags after worship. We love having kids in worship, but the following alternatives are also available: *Nursery* is provided for infants (at least six weeks old) and toddlers. After the *Focus on Children*, children ages 3-7 go to the balcony, where they experience a little of what worship is like while doing learning activities related to the scripture with coloring, puzzles, books, children's bulletins and more. When the sacraments of the Lord's Supper or Baptism are celebrated, children return to the sanctuary. We invite those in second grade and above to remain in the sanctuary and participate in the entire worship service.

LET THE BELLS PLAY! Our 37-bell Rushton Memorial Carillon was the first such instrument in Birmingham and the third in the United States, when installed in 1924.

PRAYER REQUESTS Please use the Prayer Request and Information Change cards, found in the pew rack, to relay information to the church office. Print your name and any other information you may need to relay to the office and place it in the offering plate.

SERMONS are available from our website at www.fpcbham.org.

The LITURGIST for today is Scott Pierce.

MISSION CENTERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LIGHT, INC. is a mission center of FPC, giving shelter and support services for homeless women and children. If you would like to help, speak to our pastors or call Ruth Crosby, Executive Director (323-4277). First Light's website: www.firstlightshelter.org

RUTH AND NAOMI SENIOR OUTREACH (RNSO) has as its mission to become spiritual companions to isolated older adults and to call, equip, and support others to do so as well. Contact chaplain@ruthandnaomi.org.

THE RUSHTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER provides quality childcare in a loving, nurturing environment – accredited by NAEYC and licensed by the Department of Human Resources. Call the CDC office at 322-8310. The Center's website is www.eprdc.com

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, a faith-based community-organizing effort FPC shares with faith communities throughout the city, works to improve quality of life for all our citizens. Faith in Action is a PICO network affiliate and can be reached at daniel@fiaal.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION provides support to First Presbyterian Church for the maintenance and upkeep of this historic sacred space built in 1889. 10% of the Foundation's annuity payment aids mission selected by session. Contact Mark Aldridge for more information.

THE REV. TERRY HAMILTON-POORE, Pastor and Head of Staff

THE REV. CATHERINE GOODRICH, Associate Pastor

MS. PATTI WINTER, Director of Christian Education

DR. HYE SOOK JUNG, Director of Music/Organist

JEFF HAIRRELL, Music Coordinator

MS. ROBIN VINES, Carillonist

MS. EMILY BURT, Youth Director

MS. LAURA H. ROBERTSON, Office Administrator

MS. DEBBIE BOONE, Bookkeeper

MS. KANDIE WILEY, Sexton

Have you remembered the church in your will?