

November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Isaiah 64:1-9
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Mark 13:24-37

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come."
Mark 13:33

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

People Look East

Praise Almighty God

Call to Worship *(and lighting of Advent candle)*

The Pedersen Family

The nights are growing longer, but the glow of Advent shines through shadows.

We are counting down the days and looking forward in anticipation.

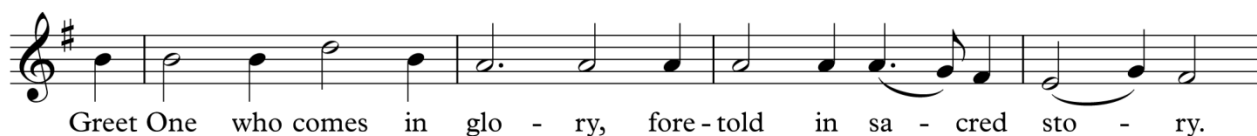
The clock is ticking, and we want to be ready.

What are we waiting for?

God in the flesh is coming among us.

The time is surely coming when we will see God's promise, true and unbreakable.

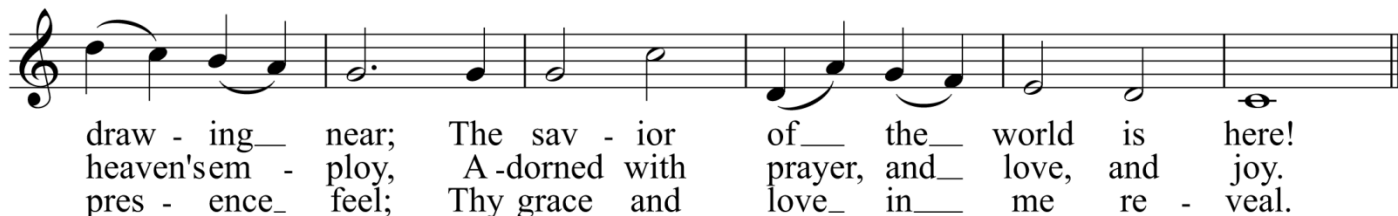
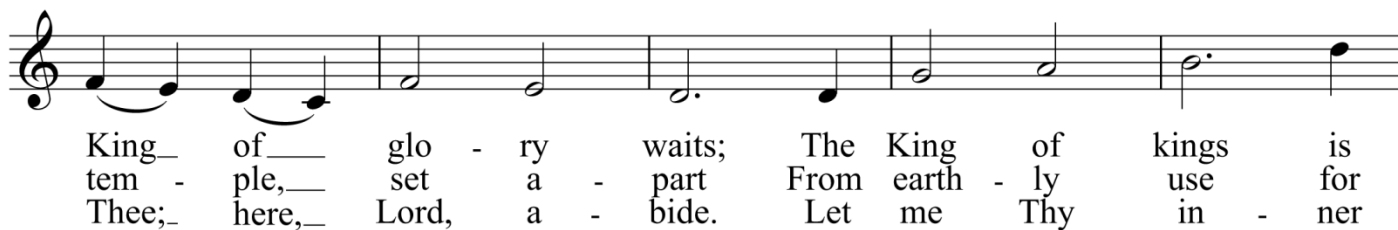
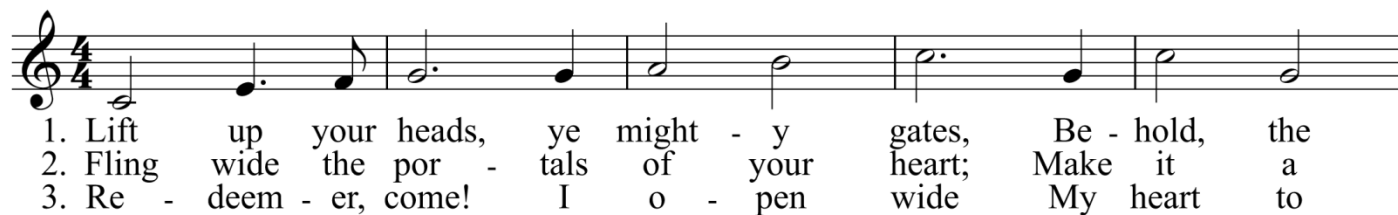
We light the candle of hope today, filled with the hope that our Savior brings.



Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO



Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Prayer of Confession

God of power, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! There are days we want you to scare everyone we dislike, so we can bask in our own superiority. But you do not obey us. We should obey you, but instead we get distracted by our own grudges. Forgive us for our impatience, pettiness, and selfishness, and bring us closer to you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God comes to us with humility and peace, in the form of a tiny child. Christ offers us new life and hope for a better tomorrow. In Christ, our sins are forgiven! **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Mark 13:34-37

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Waiting and Hoping

FPC Church Family

Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith *(from the Book of Order)*

Christ gives to the Church its faith and life, its unity and mission, its order and discipline. In affirming with the earliest Christians that Jesus is Lord, the Church confesses that he is its hope, and that the Church, as Christ's body, is bound to his authority and thus free to live in the lively, joyous reality of the grace of God. The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.

Offering Our Gifts and Lives to God

In the gift of money, we offer something of our work and selves to God.

To donate, please visit the church website, fpcdavenport.org, and click on "Donate Now," use the link: <https://bit.ly/2V8nEgm>, or mail your check in to the church office

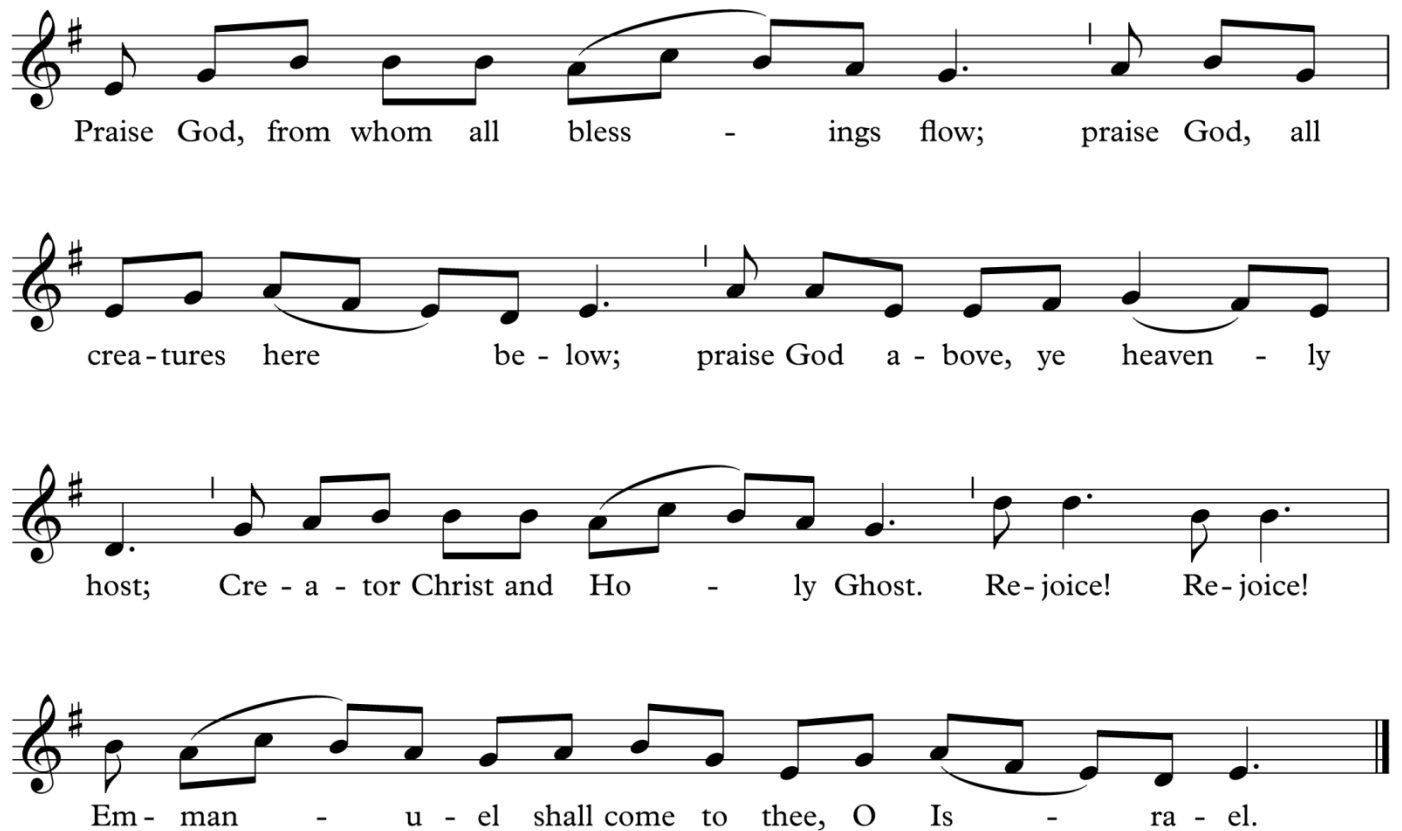
I Stood on the River of Jordan

Tenor - Dave Bowles Edwards, Piano - Alex Gilson

Arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology.



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly
host; Cre - a - tor Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Prayer of Dedication

Jesus, Son of the Most High God, you have done great things for us. May these offerings help your people and be used to share your story. Through our gifts, and discipleship, may we work alongside you to care for others. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort

GENEVAN 42



1. "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; Tell of peace!" thus says our God.
2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
3. Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness Bowed be - neath op - pres - sion's load.
Bid - ding us to make re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them!
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing And the hills bow down in greet - ing.
And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Benediction

Rev. Katie Styr

Postlude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

J. S. Bach

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers are Welcome for: Sharon Boron; family of Harold W. Jackson; Ron and Sue Kardel (*turkeys chosen for Presidential Pardon*); family of Barbara Melby: Duane Timm and Jeff Gomez; Judith Wade (*death of brother John William Gerst*); Jim Woods (death of mother); families and victims of abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters.

Christmas Poinsettias 2020

In the tradition of past Christmas seasons, the Chancel Guild will brighten the Sanctuary with poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones. To be part of this wonderful tradition, please complete the form and send it to the church office, place it in the offering as you leave the Drive-In Worship Service, or by going to FPC's website and clicking the "Donate Online" link. **The deadline for making a donation is Sunday, December 13.**

In Memory or Honor of (circle one): _____

Given by: _____

Sunday School is Online!

Attention parents! Join us on Zoom for Sunday School! We meet from 10:30-11:00 AM every Sunday for Bible stories, sharing, and learning together. For security, the Zoom link is being emailed - please be sure to register for Sunday school (or contact Pastor Katie) so we can get your kids involved!

Cherubs and MusikGarten – Sundays, 10:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Cherubs and MusikGarten continue to meet this fall on Zoom at new times to coincide with our Sunday School schedule. MusikGarten will meet from 10:30-11:00 AM. Infants through three year-olds and their parents are invited to come to MusikGarten. Cherubs will meet from 11:00-11:15 AM following their Sunday School class that begins at 10:30 AM. Cherubs are in pre-school and Kindergarten. If you have questions about either group, contact Kathy Middleton (kathrynbl5@gmail.com; 563-505-0471.)

Adult Christian Education (ACE): "People, Look East" - A Four-Part Study of Advent Hymns

Beginning today, Director of Music Matt Bishop leads a four-week ACE study on Advent hymns over Zoom at 10:45 AM. This interactive presentation covers in depth 1-2 hymns each week from multiple perspectives: discussion of the text, the historical and biblical contexts surrounding the text, and an investigation into the music and how the hymns have been adapted beyond the realm of basic hymn singing. The presentations utilize a resource titled "People, Look East" from The Presbyterian Leader. The schedule of the lessons mirrors the singing of these hymns as part of our Sunday morning worship:

Today: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

December 6: "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright" and "Savior of the Nations, Come"

December 13: "People, Look East"

December 20: "Sleepers, Wake!' A Voice Astounds Us"

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86534524349?pwd=ZkZHRkdMVIVweHJWdHpNdXp3WmR4UT09>. You may also join by phone by dialing (312)626-6799 and inputting the Meeting ID (865 3452 4349) and the Passcode (ACE).

Bible Basics 201 - Tuesdays, 6:15 pm

This Advent, we'll explore Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis' new encyclical, and its lessons for all Christians. Anyone is welcome to take part in this class!

December 1: Chapters 1-2

December 8: Chapters 3-4

December 15: Chapters 5-6

December 22: Chapters 7-8

In January, we'll share a three-part study of the Book of Hebrews. This letter was written to Jewish Christians living in Jerusalem, and is an elegantly-written exploration of Christ's role in the world.

January 5: Hebrews 1-4

January 12: Hebrews 5-8

January 19: Hebrews 9-13

January 26: The Jordan River

We'll meet 6:15-7:15 PM on Tuesdays over Zoom until further notice. The Zoom address will stay the same.

Join online: <https://zoom.us/j/104294135?pwd=Ylo4QVdBZWZHQ3JURUppbVkvQitwQT09>, or call in: 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID (104 294 135) and passcode 240979.

Drive-In Worship Discontinued

As the weather gets colder, our drive-in worship services will end after Thanksgiving. Due to high COVID rates in our area, we will not be having indoor worship. Join us online at 9:30 AM on Facebook for a digital watch party, or click on <https://www.fpcdavenport.org/sermon-videos/> anytime

Christian Education for Youth (CEFY) Fall 2020

Kirkwood Club Schedule

We hope you had fun at our September Kirkwood Club meeting! Here's the schedule of our fall activities, which will all be from 6:00-6:45 PM at church:

Wednesday, December 16: Christmas Games

Hope to see you there! To get Kirkwood Club updates, email Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org, or text @fpcdkids to 81010.

Kirkwood Choir Schedule – Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 PM

Kirkwood Choir meets on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:00-6:30 pm via Zoom. Please contact Linda Bengfort for further information.

December 2 – Kirkwood Choir

December 16 – Kirkwood Club

December 9 – Kirkwood Choir

December 24 – IN RECESS

December 30 – IN RECESS

Youth Group Schedule Update

Until COVID rates go down, ACT and EPIC will be meeting monthly for games and activities. Our meetings will be from 1:00-2:00 PM on Sundays.

Save the date for fun on December 13. To get youth group updates, email Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org, or text @612thgra to 81010 (or add @612thgra on the Remind app).

Join Online!

For more information, see the e-news, church website or Facebook:

Worship Watch Party - Sundays, 9:30 AM

Midweek Prayer - Wednesdays, 12:00 PM, via Facebook

Stump the Organist! – Every other Friday, 12:00 PM

Join the fun on Friday, December 4 for the final program for 2020!!

Alex Gilson, Christmas Organ Recital - Saturday, December 12, 7:30 PM

FPC Principal Organist Alex Gilson presents a free half-hour concert of sacred organ music appropriate for the approach to the Christmas season. Repertoire includes French Baroque “noëls,” German Advent chorale preludes, and a movement from Olivier Messiaen’s masterpiece *Le Nativité du Seigneur*. The concert will be available on the church’s Facebook page and the “Music at First Pres” page on Saturday, December 12 starting at 7:30 PM, and will remain available online afterward.

The 2020 FPC (Virtual) Christmas Concert - Saturday, December 19, 7:30 PM

Although it is not safe to gather and sing indoors, FPC continues its long tradition of offering a free Christmas concert on the third weekend of December. The 2020 concert will feature the Vesper Bells, as well as vocal and instrumental solo and small ensemble contributions from many of our talented youth and adult choir members. The concert will be available on the church’s Facebook page and the “Music at First Pres” page on Saturday, December 19 starting at 7:30 PM, and will remain available online afterward.

If you would like to request a DVD copy of either concert, please do so no later than one week in advance by contacting Director of Music Matt Bishop by phone (563-326-1691) or email (bishop@fpcdavenport.org).

Blue Christmas Service - Sunday, December 20, 6:00 PM on Zoom

A Blue Christmas service is a time of contemplation and calm worship where Christians can lift up their grief from the year and find solace in God. If you’ve had a year that makes holiday joy hard, or just need a break from having it all put together, join us for song and prayer. This service will be a chance to remember those who have passed away in 2020, as well as the fear, anxiety, and loss which can make Christmas a difficult time for some. You are invited to join us for time a to worship and ask for God’s comforting presence.

Pandemic Task Force Update: Small Groups Able to Meet at Church

The Session has approved ability for small groups to meet in the church. Reservations will be required. Our online room request form will soon be available on the church website; please contact Darren Long to make a reservation in the meantime. Space will be limited to groups of 15 or less for meetings of 45 minutes or less. Facilities staff will approve and assign meeting room space. All attendees will be required to wear a mask from the time they enter the church building until they depart. The assigned meeting room will be set up socially distanced and all meeting attendees will need to remain masked from the time they enter the building until they depart. Currently the church building remains locked and key fobs/cards are disabled, so the meeting organizer will need to ensure someone from the group lets attendees into the building and that the attendance form is completed and submitted to the office after the meeting. At this time, groups using the church will be expected to report to their assigned room, hold their meeting, and depart the church directly after. While the bathrooms will be available, groups are not allowed to bring food or drink. Infractions of these guidelines will result in a group losing the ability to meet at church until restrictions are lifted; this will be enforced by the Head of Staff.

News from the Finance Office

	October 2020		October 2019	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
General Fund Income	48,257	56,680	55,743	65,185
Custodial Accounts Income	242	-	5,671	-
Compensation Expenses	39,042	51,258	53,894	61,321
Non Compensation General Fund Expenses	10,264	17,015	12,123	20,391
Custodial Accounts Expenses	242	-	5,671	-
Surplus (Deficit)	(1,049)	(11,593)	(10,274)	(16,527)
	2020 Year-To-Date		2019 Year-To-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
General Fund Income	665,511	707,638	702,494	722,305
Custodial Accounts Income	75,813	-	73,408	-
Compensation Expenses	473,146	498,258	489,622	541,585
Non Compensation General Fund Expenses	132,088	201,265	182,258	248,498
Custodial Accounts Expenses	75,812	-	73,409	-
Surplus (Deficit)	60,278	8,115	30,613	(67,778)

All numbers are rounded.