

December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55
John 1:6-8, 19-28

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me;
God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor....”
Isaiah 61:1 -2a

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Preparation for Worship

Worshippers are invited to meditate silently during the following prelude.

Prelude

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

J. S. Bach

Praise Almighty God

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

The Ferrell Family

God created the world and all that is in it, shaping us with love.

We are made with love, created in God's image.

Christ is coming to us as the ultimate expression of God's love for us.

Let us welcome that love into our hearts and celebrate!

We light the candle of love, and share this love with each other.





1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



east and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Children's Message

Rev. Katie Styr

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Prayer of Confession

Dear God, as the prophets announced the coming of a Savior for the world, in many ways we have turned that promise into a personal blessing. Too often we are looking for what the “church” can do for us. We want things done our way. We become lax in seeking how we can be used to further your mission alongside others, and retreat from participation. During this time of isolation from one another, forgive us if we have lost hope. Restore to us the joy of our salvation in this Advent Season as we trust in your continued presence with us, and ministry through us. In Christ we pray, amen.

Assurance of Pardon

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins Through Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Listen for God's Word

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1, 10-11

John 1:6-9, 20-23

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Shelter, Nurture, Fellowship

Rev. Pat Halverson

Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith *(from A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image to live as one community.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

With believers in every time and place,

we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Want to Be Ready

Arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Tenor - Dave Bowles Edwards, Piano - Alex Gilson

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Please sing the Doxology.

Prayer of Dedication

God, as you came to us in Christ, we offer to you in Christ's name these gifts to be used to help bring the good news in word and deed to many. May these gifts be used to bring light to this present darkness. 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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
2. I - sa - iah 'twas for - told it, the rose I have in mind;
3. This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

Benediction

Rev. Katie Styr

Postlude

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

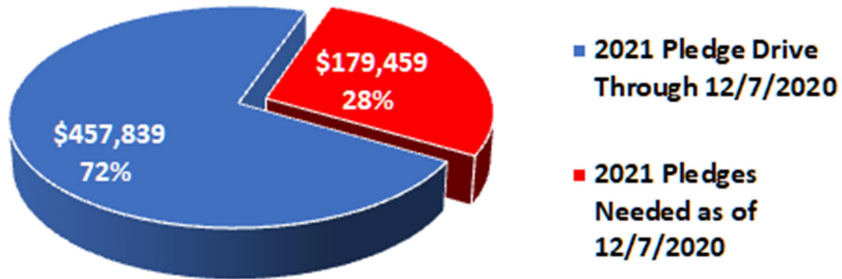
Johannes Brahms

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.

2021 Stewardship Update

Amount Pledged as of 12/7/2020



A sincere thank you to everyone who has returned their 2021 Stewardship Cards or set-up their online pledges! Your generosity and commitment to the many missions of FPC has resulted in a total of \$457,839 confirmed pledges as of December 7, 2020. This is a great start, but we are still \$179,459 short of matching the 2020 Pledge drive. There is still time to turn in your card or set-up your online pledge. Please contact Kristine Olson, Finance Manager, at olson@fpdavenport.org or (563) 326-1691 x219 if you have any questions.

Christmas Joy Offering: Being Together

God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. According to Matthew's Gospel, one of the names given to Jesus is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." During these past months, many of us weren't able to be together in person. But we have always been together in spirit, and in faith. God has been with us. And through our gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, we are together with those who need our love and support. Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, to be with them.

50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them — we are with them.

50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

Thank you for your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering — for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Videos Wanted for Church Christmas Card

It's been a long time since we've seen each other, so we're preparing a video Christmas card and need your help! Please record yourself or your family saying a quick one sentence greeting (like "Merry Christmas!" "Happy Holidays!" "We miss you!" "God loves you!" "Happy Birthday, Jesus!", etc). Send those messages to Katie at styrt@fpcdavenport.org by December 21. If you're not sure about recording but want to send a greeting, contact Katie and we'll work something out!

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: _____

Streaming Worship Starting Today!

Thanks to some technological improvements, we'll be live-streaming worship starting ~~on December 13~~ today at 9:30 AM! The service can be viewed on Facebook and Vimeo just like always, but closed captioning will be added later – usually by Tuesday morning. Please excuse any technical hiccups as we adjust to this new way to share worship together.

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

Director of Music Matt Bishop continues his ~~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: "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 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/98965381440?pwd=TUdyMXltRTMrRXdFWnBEZ0NEKzBYUT09>

Meeting ID: 989 6538 1440

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

Save the date for our upcoming Kirkwood Club activities! We'll meet ~~at~~ on Wednesdays from 6:00-6:45 PM December 16 for a virtual Christmas Party!

January 27

March 24

February 24

April 28

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 16 – Kirkwood Club

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.

Save the date for youth group fellowship activities! Everyone is welcome. We'll also have service activities, time and date *To Be Announced* depending on the project. We'll meet Sundays from 1:00 - 1:45 PM.

December 13 for virtual Christmas games!

January 24

March 28

February 21

April 18

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

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 a time to worship and ask for God's comforting presence.

Join us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/93696223181?pwd=a0N6Qy8rYkRCd1dQOUltV3NrT2cyQT09> or to call in dial 312-626-6799 and enter the meeting ID: 936 9622 3181 and passcode: 363576.

Christmas Eve Zoom Pageant – Thursday, December 24, 4:00 PM

Join us for a children's pageant on Zoom! Each family is invited to pick up bags with costumes and other Christmas goodies. We'll come together for a relaxed retelling of the Christmas story with lots of participation, movement, and fun! You can pick up your bag between 9:00 AM and noon from December 21-23. If you need another pick-up time, just contact Pastor Katie and we'll make sure your family gets their goodies! Anybody and everybody who wants to tell the Christmas story together is welcome to join us, so feel free to grab bags for your grandkids. Join us on Zoom at meeting ID 993 4898 1656 (the password is the church's zip code).

2021 Per Capita - \$38 per member

Per Capita is the annual contribution each Presbyterian makes to support our denomination's local, national, and international ministries. 2021 Per Capita due is \$38 per member, which is the same amount due for 2020. A member is one who has been confirmed or has been welcomed into the congregation by confession of faith, letter of transfer from another congregation, or reaffirmation of faith. If you wish to pre-pay your 2021 Per Capita prior to December 31, 2020, please indicate as such with your payment. You can submit your annual Per Capita by mail or you can pay online.