

December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR MEDITATION

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
Mark 1:21-8

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

And the king will answer them,
“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:40

The Church Gathers To...

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Styr

Praise Almighty God

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

The Williams Family

In a world of violence, where families live in shelters and children grow up in fear, we call on God for help.

In a time where comfort seems so far away, we call upon the Prince of Peace to come into our lives.

Lord, we ask for the peace that only you can bring.

In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of peace into our world. We await the birth of Emmanuel, God with us.

We light the candle of peace, and commit to building a peaceful community together.



Opening Sentences

Jesus says: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And blessed is the church that serves with the love of God to eradicate systemic poverty.

Jesus says: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

And blessed is the church that trusts in the grace of Christ to build congregational vitality.

Jesus says: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

And blessed is the church that seeks by the power of the Spirit to dismantle structural racism.

Blessed are you, O holy, triune God,

and blessed is your holy realm forever.



1. Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2. No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3. No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4. Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.



Hal-le - lu - jah, hal-le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

Confess to a Forgiving Creator

Prayer of Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love.

Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Refrain

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.
Cám - bia - me, Se - ñor, con tu gran po - der.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
Haz - me co - mo tú, tu yo quie-ro ser.

You are the Pot - ter; I am the clay.
Tú el al - fa - re - ro, yo el ba - rro soy.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Só - lo a tu i - ma - gen, quie-ro siem-pre ser.

to Refrain

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Listen for God's Word**Scripture Readings**

Matthew 25:31-46

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

1. O - so - so o - so - so, pyong - hwa eui im - gum
 2. O - so - so o - so - so, sa - rang eui im - gum

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.
 u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.

Litany of Commitment

Jesus says: Repent, for the realm of heaven has come near. I invite you, in the name of Christ, to turn from what is evil and turn to what is good, rejecting all that is contrary to the gospel and embracing the vision of the Matthew 25 church.

Do you renounce the evils of systemic poverty and economic exploitation?

We renounce them!

Will you devote yourself to doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with your God?

We will, with God's help.

Do you renounce the sins of structural racism and white supremacy?

We renounce them!

Will you devote yourself to breaking down the walls of hostility that separate us from one another?

We will, with God's help.

Do you renounce the ways of fear, isolation and scarcity in the church?

We renounce them!

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

We will, with God's help.

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

"Thou Visitest the Earth"
The Chamber Chorale
(Rebroadcast from December 8, 2019)

Maurice Greene

Presentation of Our Gifts and Lives to God

Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks and praise, O Lord: You have created us in your own image. You have claimed us as your beloved people. You have called us to be a blessing for others. Use the gifts of your good creation and the works of our hands to lift up the oppressed, break down dividing walls, and build up your church; all in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Go To Serve With God's Blessing

Hymn

When the Lord Redeems the Very Least

I'LL FLY AWAY



1. When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least, we will re-joyce.
2. When the Lord re - stores the sick and weak, we will re-joyce.
3. When the Lord re - vives the world from death, we will re-joyce.
4. When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry, we will re-joyce.

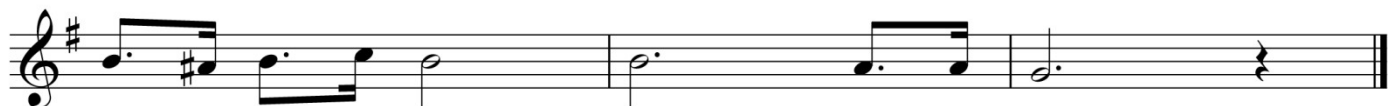


When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast, we will re-joyce
When the earth is giv - en to the meek, we will re-joyce.
When the word of God fills ev - ery breath, we will re-joyce.
When we live in glo-rious lib - er - ty, we will re-joyce.

Refrain



We will re-joyce with glad-ness. We will re-joyce. All our days we'll



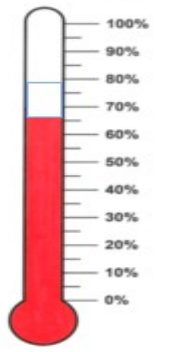
sing to God in praise. We will re - joyce!

Today's service was prepared by the national leadership of the PC(USA), based on the Matthew 25 vision. Our congregation joined the Matthew 25 initiative last year, which affirms our commitment to dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and building congregational vitality. Today's preacher is the Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, President/Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Death: Frankie Wilson, November 25, 2020

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



2021 Stewardship Update

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 \$413,279 confirmed pledges as of November 29, 2020. This is a great start, but we are still \$224,000 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.

Angel Tree

It's that time of year when we start thinking about Christmas and how we might make a child's holiday a little happier. FPC's tradition of supporting the Angel Tree Project will continue this year, but in a little different way due to COVID-19. We are again teaming up with Bethany for Children & Families to provide Christmas gifts to Quad City children who receive Bethany family services. Bethany's social workers and therapists are again thrilled that they will have FPC's help in meeting their need.

We are virtually distributing gift tags this year. To get your tag, go to the church's website and click on the link to: 2020 Angel Tree. This will give you a list of the tags. Pick your tag/s, by filling in your name and phone number on the form. Your information will be saved so that no one else will take your tag. Not technologically inclined - call the church office, 563-326-1691, and ask for our Finance Manager, Kristine Olson, extension 219, to be assigned a tag. Your tag will tell you the first name, age, size, gender and gift suggestions for each child. Return your gifts, to the church during one of the windows we have set up for gift drop off:

Saturday, December 5 between 9:00-11:00 AM

Monday, December 7 between 4:00 – 5:30 PM

Wednesday, December 9 between 4:00-5:30 PM

Please return your gift/s unwrapped - including wrapping paper is a nice touch. Total value of gifts for each child should not exceed \$30. Our gifts will be delivered to Bethany who will wrap them and deliver them to each child's caregiver in time for Christmas. Because of confidentiality rules, congregational members cannot be involved in delivering the gifts. Thank you for making a child's Christmas wish come true. Contact the church office or Doug Wells (563-370-6457; wellsd@gomezmaylaw.com) if you have questions.

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 December 13

Thanks to some technological improvements, we'll be live-streaming worship starting on December 13 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 (kathryn15@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 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: “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 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=Ylo4QVdBeWZHQ3JURUppbVkvQitwQT09>, 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

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 9 – Kirkwood Choir

December 24 – IN RECESS

December 16 – Kirkwood Club

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

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.

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.

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.