

# A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

First Presbyterian Church Davenport, Iowa

Half past nine o'clock in the morning, December 5, 2021 The Second Sunday of Advent

# **Holy Sonnet 15**

Wilt thou love God as he thee? Then digest,
My soul, this wholesome meditation,
How God the Spirit, by angels waited on
In heaven, doth make His temple in thy breast.
The Father having begot a Son most blest,
And still begetting—for he ne'er begun—
Hath deign'd to choose thee by adoption,
Co-heir to His glory, and Sabbath' endless rest.
And as a robb'd man, which by search doth find
His stolen stuff sold, must lose or buy it again,
The Sun of glory came down, and was slain,
Us whom He had made, and Satan stole, to unbind.
'Twas much, that man was made like God before,
But, that God should be made like man, much more.

By John Donne (1572-1631)

Cover art: The Cestello Annunciation, Sandro Botticelli (c. 1445-1510) - Uffizi Gallery, Florence

Despite its roots in centuries-old liturgical sources, the lessons and carols service is a relatively new addition to the canon of Christian worship liturgy, but one that has already found its way into traditions across multiple denominations. The first Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in the chapel of King's College of Cambridge University, about sixty miles north of London, on Christmas Eve 1918. The service was planned by the school's dean, Eric Milner-White, who sought to bring more "imaginative worship" into the Church of England in the post-war era; White based the service on a similar format used three decades before at the church in Truro by E.W. Benson (who later became Archbishop of Canterbury). The BBC began broadcasting the service in 1928; every Christmas Eve since, millions of people across the world are touched by the scriptural readings and carols from this service.

As the service grew in popularity, an increasing number of English and American choirs began to program services modeled after the one at King's College, and a Service of Advent Lessons and Carols featuring seven rather than nine readings began to take root. The typical format of the service begins with the choir processional on the great hymn "Once in Royal David's City." After each of seven scripture readings, the choir sings one or two carols, intermixed with additional congregational hymns.

The carols this year have been selected to highlight the many connections between the prophecies and stories of the coming of Christ with the idea of preparation. In addition to offerings of traditional carols, the choir will also be singing works by living composers that set to music devotional poetry dating back to the Middle Ages. Fresh treatments of old materials are certainly not a novelty in the Christian experience, but rather serve as examples of the relevancy even of age-old tradition and our communion with those who initiated and propelled it. Because the texts of these carols are so poignant, illustrating individual stories themselves, we have printed them in this morning's order of worship for you to follow as you please.

We pray that you will take from this service a message of hope, of joy, of love, and of promises fulfilled as we are reminded again through the Advent liturgy of the great story of our shared faith: "And our eyes at last shall see him..."

-The FPC Chamber Chorale Matthew Bishop, Director of Music

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

\* We invite you to stand.

#### **PRELUDE**

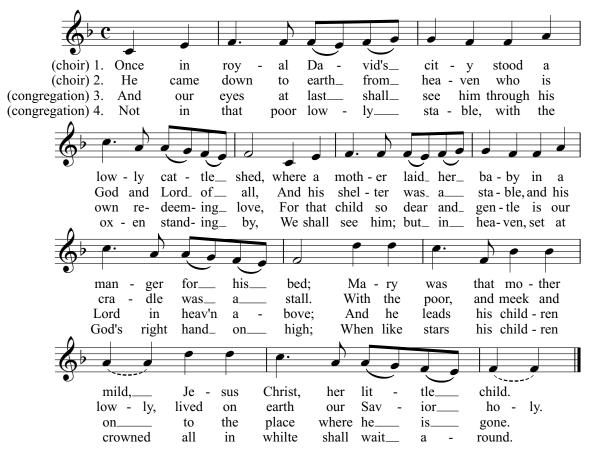
Trio Super "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland," BWV 660

Alex Gilson, organist By Johann Sebastian Bach (b. 1685-1750)

# \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

**IRBY** 



WORDS OF WELCOME MINUTE FOR MISSION THE BIDDING PRAYER THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala Rev. Dr. Beth McCaw Rev. Dr. Stoner-Lasala

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.

# LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

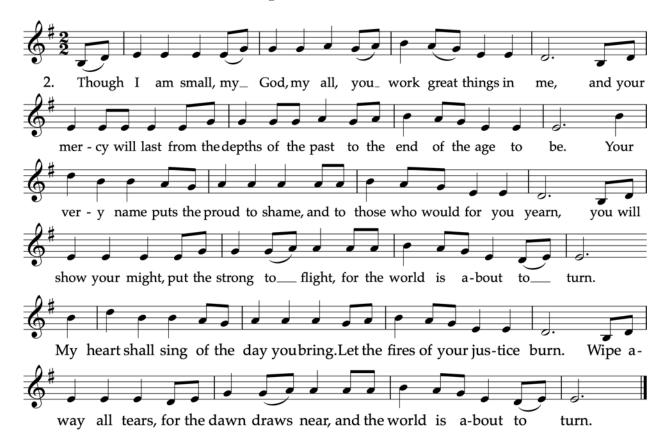
The Williams Family

The Advent candles remind us of the promise God has given to us: to send a Savior. On the first Sunday of Advent we lit the candle of Hope as we remain faithful to the Hope that is to come. for what is to come. On this second Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Peace, trusting that we do not find God's peace; God's peace finds us.

# \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Canticle of the Turning

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN



Let us pray: Almighty God, we ask you: where is Peace?

Surrounded by injustice, greed and violence,

sometimes it feels as if your Peace will never arrive.

# Breathe into us, O God, the Peace that comes from you alone.

Remind us of your promise that your light will never be overcome, and then send us out to carry your Peace: to release the captives, bring good news to the poor, feed the hungry, help the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bring justice for all.

We ask it in the name of the One we call Peace; Amen.

**OFFERTORY** 

Alex Gilson, organist Arr. Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

People, Look East

(Copyright 1996, Augsburg Fortress)

#### CAROL

The Cherry Tree Carol

Joseph was an old man, and an old man was he, When he wedded Mary, in the land of Galilee.

Joseph and Mary
walked through an orchard good,
Where was cherries and berries,
so red as any blood.

O then bespoke Mary, so meek and O so mild: "Pluck me one cherry, Joseph, for I am with child."

O then bespoke Joseph, with words most unkind: "Let him pluck thee a cherry that brought thee with child."

English carol, 15th century Arr. Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948-2019)

O then bespoke the baby, within his mother's womb: "Bow down then the tallest tree, for my mother to have some."

Then bowed down the highest tree unto his mother's hand; Then she cried, "See, Joseph, I have cherries at command."

> O then bespoke Joseph: "I have done Mary wrong; But cheer up, my dearest, and be ye not cast down."

Then Mary plucked a cherry, as red as the blood, Then Mary went homewards All with her heavy load.

Soloists: Mike Bawden, Heidi Pedersen, Marty Bowles Edwards (Copyright 2000, Oxford University Press)

#### FIRST LESSON

Nancy Chapman

Isaiah 40:1-8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and is bringing the exiles home!

### CAROL

Adam Lay Ybounden

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, An apple that he took, As clerkes finden<sup>1</sup> Written in their book. By John Ireland (1879-1962) Text: Anonymous, 15th-century English

> Ne had the apple taken been, The apple taken been, Ne had never our Lady Abeen heavene queen.

Blessed be the time That apple takes was; Therefore we moun singen<sup>2</sup> Deo gracias.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> clerkes: clergy (Middle English)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> moun singen: must sing (Middle English)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Deo Gracias!: Thanks be to God! (Latin)

SECOND LESSON Don Wood

Jeremiah 23:5-6

The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.

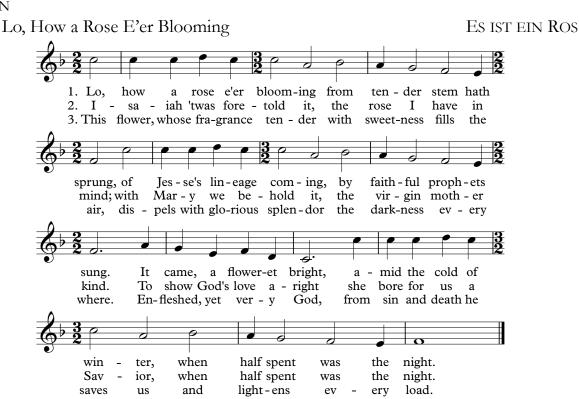
# CAROL

How Beautiful upon the Mountains

John Stainer (1840-1901) Text: Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, "Thy God reigneth!"

#### \*HYMN



# THIRD LESSON

Jeffrey Gomez

Zechariah 9:9-10

To a nation of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.

CAROL

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

By Daniel Gawthrop (b. 1949) Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

(Copyright 2021, Dunstan House)

FOURTH LESSON Paula Hartmann

Haggai 2:6-9

The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.

CAROL

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth German melody, PUER NOBIS NASCITUR Text: St. Ambrose (c. 340-397), trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Arr. S. Cleobury

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth; let every age adoring fall, such birth befits the God of all.

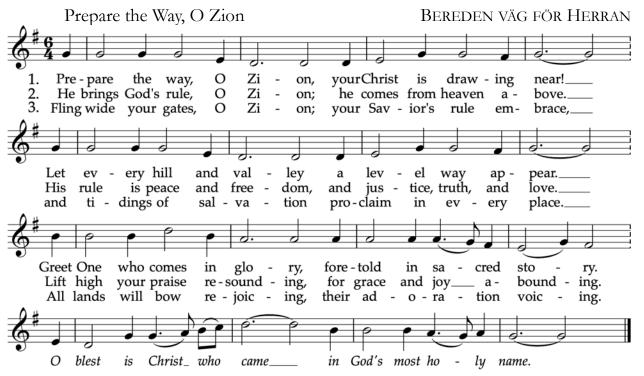
Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still the Word of God, in flesh arrayed, The Saviour, now to man displayed. Forth from the chamber goeth he, that royal home of purity, a giant in twofold substance one, rejoicing now his course to run.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness glow with newborn light, no more shall night extinguish day, where love's bright beams their power display.

O equal to thy Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now, the weakness of our mortal state with deathless might invigorate. Amen.

(Copyright 2000, Oxford University Press)





FIFTH LESSON Jim Tucker

Isaiah 35:1-6

The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people on the coming day of redemption.

#### CAROL

Never Weather-Beaten Sail

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore.
Never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,
Than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.

By Charles Wood (1866-1926) Text: Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Rev. Dr. McCaw

Ever blooming are the joys of Heaven's high Paradise.
Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes:
Glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see:
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!

# SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

#### CAROL

I Sing of a Maiden

# By Lennox Berkeley (1903-1989) Text: Anonymous, 15th-century English

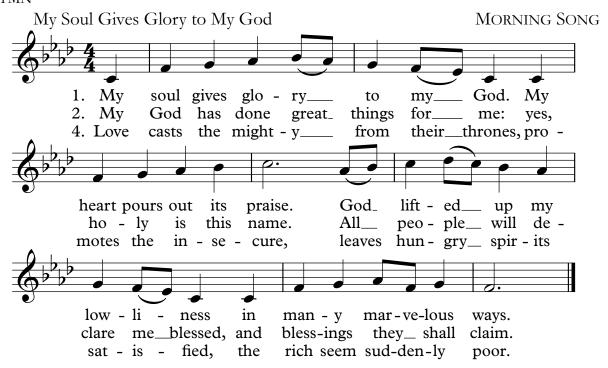
I sing of a maiden That is makeless:<sup>4</sup> King of all kinges To her son she ches.<sup>5</sup>

He came all so stille There his mother was,<sup>6</sup> As dew in Aprille That falleth on the grass. He came all so stille
To his mother's bow'r,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flow'r.

He came all so stille There his mother lay, As dew in Aprille That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddes mother be.

#### \*HYMN



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> makeless: matchless (Middle English)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *ches*: chose (Middle English)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> There: where (Middle English)

SEVENTH LESSON Judy Hawthorne

Mark 1:1-15

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

CAROL

Zion, At Thy Shining Gates

By George Guest (1924-2002)

Melody published by the Bohemian Brethren in Kirchengesang (1566)

Text: Benjamin H. Kennedy (1804-1889)

Zion, at thy shining gates Lo, the King of Glory waits, Haste thy monarch's pomp to greet, Strew thy palms before his feet. Come and give us peace within, Loose us from the bands of sin, Take away the galling weight Laid on us by Satan's hate.

Christ, for thee their triple light, Faith and hope and love unite; This the beacon we display To proclaim thine advent day. Give us grace thy yoke to wear, Give us strength thy cross to bear, Make us thine in deed and word, Thine in heart and life, O Lord.

So, when thou shalt come again, Judge of angels and of men. We with all thy saints shall sing Alleluias to our King.

\*BLESSING Rev. Dr. Stoner-Lasala

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;

hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor everyone;

love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

(Scriptural references: 1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Tim. 2:1; Eph. 6:10; 1 Thess. 5:13–22; 1 Peter 2:17)



POSTLUDE

Noel Etranger, Sur les Jeux d'Anches et en Duo

Alex Gilson, organist By Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

# **JOYS & CONCERNS**

In Our Prayers: For comfort, the Family and Friends of those killed and injured in a mass school shooting in Michigan and mass motor vehicle accidents in Wisconsin and Texas, Dottie Travor, Dick Wells and Cheryl McCulloh; and for God's presence with Lois Osterman, those who are grieving, Cody, Teresa Lasala, Jim and Lori Lasala, Dorothy Bain, Lynette, Brenda Cole, David Milnes, Hudson Stoner, Rebecca Koos; Barb Thede, families and victims of gun violence, abuse, addiction, violence, loss, suicide, COVID-19, and all recent natural disasters; FPC members and all others receiving the COVID vaccine.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Called Meeting of the Congregation

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, December 12, 2021, immediately following the worship service for the elections of a Pastor Nominating Committee and Pastor Nominating Committee and Church Officers.

**Cherub Choir & Kirkwood Choir** - meeting today at 10:35.

#### **ACE Lecture Series**

Sundays at 10:35 am

Von Maur Hall & Zoom (Zoom link available in e-news)

#### December:

5 Kick-Off Advent Activity: A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas Study

12 A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas Study

19 A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas Study

26 (In Recess)

#### Bible Basics 201 – December 2021 Lessons

On December 1st, Bible Basics began an Advent/Christmas series. The lessons look at the gospel stories of Jesus' birth. The lessons link is available in the e-news. Watch the video for each week and then join us for our fellowship and discussion on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM.

December 1: Come Thou Unexpected Jesus – the Gospel of Matthew

December 8: Savior of the World – the Gospel of Luke

December 15: Word Made Flesh – the Gospel of John

Bible Basics 201 will be in recess on December 22 & December 29. We will meet again on January 5, 2022. Please contact Mark Jones (mkjones@mchsi.com) for more information. Zoom link available in the e-news.

# Women of Hope Bible Study

Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 10:00 am Church Parlor

Join the Women of Hope Bible Study group! We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. For additional information, please contact:

Jeanne Sherwood 563-391-9287 | jssherwood@gmail.com

# **Ugly Sweater Party**

Friday, December 17 | 6:00-8:00pm

All adults are invited to FPC's annual Ugly Sweater and White Elephant Gift Exchange. Come enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship.

# **FPC Christmas Concerts**

"Risen with Healing In His Wings" Saturday, December 18 | 7:30pm

Sunday, December 19 | 4:00pm

Complimentary Tickets Required (reserved seating)

The Music department at FPC is excited to resume its tradition of celebratory Christmas concerts, and after a year with no in-person concert, you'll want to be sure to reserve your seats in advance. This year's concerts, on the third weekend in December, feature many of the church's great and beloved ensembles: the Sanctuary Choir, Chamber Chorale, Vesper Bells, Kildalton Quartet, and Celebrations Singers, accompanied by full orchestra and Principal Organist Alex Gilson. \*Face masks required.

This year's repertoire is centered around a theme of healing. As the world continues to deal with the effects of COVID-19 and its many variants, it is our hope that this year's concerts will bring about a sense of healing and recovery in our community. These concerts will be both a celebration of our Christmas traditions and an acknowledgment that many people are still grieving the loss of loved ones, of jobs, and of normalcy.

Complementary tickets required, available on Eventbrite.

Saturday Tickets <a href="https://bit.ly/3mMzwnm">https://bit.ly/3mMzwnm</a>
Sunday Tickets <a href="https://bit.ly/3kcZZbT">https://bit.ly/3kcZZbT</a>

#### Cocoa and Caring ...

#### Warm Hands and Warm Heart

Once again, this winter, we will reach out to our First Church neighborhood with hot cocoa, candy canes, warm mittens, gloves, hats and lots of Christmas spirit.

On **Tuesday December 7th between 3 and 5pm**, we will hand out Christmas blessings at a table outside the front doors of the sanctuary on Kirkwood Boulevard.

Now is the time to start bringing donations of these items to place in the container at the back of the church sanctuary. Any questions, call or text Cathy Pratscher-Woods at 563-349-2288.

# Session Highlights

November 2021

- As part of the Synod ARC recommendations, the Session approved revisions and updates to the Session committee descriptions for the FPC Operations Manual.
- Received a report from the Finance Committee that we will end the year with a positive balance (income exceeding expenses), acknowledging that our 2021 budget is smaller than in the past. Expenses associated with hiring a new Head of Staff in 2022 and a CE director may mean a deficit budget for 2022.
- Approved an upgrade in the church's technology to improve our ability to livestream meetings, hold hybrid meetings, and participate in remote conferences. Money for the project will come from the New Covenant Restricted Memorial Fund and the general fund.
- Heard a presentation from the Church Marketing and Growth Committee. The CMGC has been working on a proposal to unify the FPC vision/mission and how best to share our message with

the community. The goal of their work is to focus the church's discipleship and make our mission attractive to those seeking a church home.

- Received an update from the Stewardship Committee. The progress report was encouraging. There is still some work to be done to reach our pledge goal.
- The Session approved a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 12, 2022 for the purpose of electing a Head of Staff Pastor Nominating Committee and a slate of 2022 church officers.

#### **Caring Closet**

The Caring Closet is open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and on Fridays from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. We receive donations during the hours we are open as well as on Sunday mornings from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m.

We are collecting the following items:

- Toys, games, and books (new or gently used, no stuffed animals) for the holiday shopping evening November 30 and December 7 from 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Clothing (all sizes), especially sweatshirts, sweaters, coats, jackets, scarves, hats and gloves/mittens
- Shoes (children and adult)
- Boots (children and adult)
- Men & Women's Underwear (all sizes, new)
- Socks
- Accessories purses, scarves, jewelry, men's ties, and belts
- Towels and washcloths
- Bedding—sheets, blankets, pillows
- Kitchen items
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, bath soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene items, etc)
- Disposable diapers (all sizes)

If you would like to help, contact: RuthAnn Tobey-Brown | <a href="mailto:ruthtobeybrown1@gmail.com">ruthtobeybrown1@gmail.com</a>

#### Food Pantry Donations Needed

Friends, whether we attend services in the parking lot, via livestream, or in the church, the need for donations to the Food Pantry is always with our community. You may drop off goods in the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also accepted. All donations go to Sacred Heart Food Pantry located at The Center on Brady Street.

## Christmas Joy Offering: The Perfect Gift

When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future. We step forward to be with young people of color who attend Stillman College (Tuscaloosa, Alabama), Presbyterian Pan American School (Kingsville, Texas), and the Menaul School (Albuquerque, New Mexico), providing financial support for their education and leadership development. We also step forward to be with church workers and their families who have faithfully served the church but find themselves in critical financial need because of changing health situations or an emergency.

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. 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.

# The FPC Chamber Chorale

Matthew Bishop, Director of Music Alex Gilson, Principal Organist/Assistant Director of Music

#### Sopranos:

Marty Bowles Edwards
Dawn Hickenbottom
Julia Meyer
Kristine Oswald
Heidi Pedersen
Kathlynn Price

# Altos:

Caitlin Bishop
Rebecca Buening-Ferris
Sarah Greim
Jane Magnusson
Linda Ruebling
Cheryl Schipull

#### Tenors:

Steve Arp Mike Bawden Andy Bowles Edwards David Bowles Edwards Mark Ruebling

#### Basses:

Ted Brown
Jim DeReus
Patrick Downing
Mike Ferris
Dave Pedersen

# FPC Staff

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala,

Bridging Pastor

Rev. Sue Howes,

Associate Pastor Emerita

Rev. Pat Halverson,

Parish Associate

Sarah Greim & Paula

Hartmann,\*

Interim Christian Education

Coordinators

Matt Bishop,
Director of Music
Alex Gilson,
Principal Organist & Assistant
Director of Music
Linda Bengfort,\*
Assistant Choral Director
Kathy Middleton,\*
Assistant Choral Director for
Children

Kristine Olson,
Finance Manager
Susan Parker,
Administrative Assistant
Kandis Cooper,\*
Nursery Coordinator
Darren Long,
Facilities & Custodial
Supervisor
Kevin Wilson,
Custodian
Chad Dean,\*
Custodian

\* Part-time employee

To make a donation to support First Presbyterian Church, please visit our website at <a href="www.fpcdavenport.org">www.fpcdavenport.org</a>, or send a text to (563)538-5020 (example: "\$25"). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. It's that easy. Your support is appreciated and will help fund all of the good things happening at FPC!