

FARRAGUT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

We can choose a better way

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022 ~ 11:00 am



~The Gathering~

Prelude

Still, Still, Still
Tami Newsom, organ

Tambling

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Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Voices of Advent

The Candle of Love
Tamar, The Innkeeper's Wife ~ played by Mary Ellen Haig

Voices of Advent by Jeri L. Shumate. Produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service

Call to Worship

Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.
The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.
Sorrow and sighing will flee:
let us come into God's presence with singing!

Hymn #8

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Text: Georg Weisdel, 1642. Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855. Music: Thomas Williams, 1789. Harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press. Public domain.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge.

**Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.**

(please continue in silent prayer)

Kyrie Eleison

Remember Not, O God

Southwell

O Lord, our Savi - ior, help, and glo - ri - fy your name; de -
liv - er us from all our sins and take a - way our shame.

Text: *The New Metrical Version of the Psalms*, 1909, alt. Music: *Daman's Psalmes*, 1579, alt. *Glory to God The Presbyterian Hymnal* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

God of Grace and God of Glory

Cwm Rhondda

**Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.**

The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~The Word~

Prayer for Illumination

Martha Edington

Holy God, scripture tells us that you came to Joseph through an angel—loud and clear, impossible to miss. Scripture also tells us that Joseph listened. He rearranged his life to follow your invitation. God, we long for that—all of that. We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts. Trace us back to our roots—back to Joseph—who heard and followed. With gratitude we listen. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

Dr. Angela Batey, cantor

Daw



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. **(R)**

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **(R)**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **(R)**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy.
The promise he has made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. **(R)**

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Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“We Can Choose a Better Way”

Rev. Matt Nieman

~The Response~

Song of Affirmation – *A Better Way* from the series “From Generation to Generation...”
sung to the tune “God Rest You Merry”

**When Joseph learned of Mary’s state he pondered her disgrace
He calculated all the shame scandal would create
But not content to see her stoned he offered her some grace**

Refrain

**Oh there is a better way, God’s better way
Oh we can choose the better way**

**He planned to leave her quietly and not create a scene
But Mary still would grow with child; what then would her fate be?
When Joseph went to sleep that night an angel intervened *(Refrain)***

**Said Gabriel, “Joseph, do not fear to make Mary your wife
She bears inside her womb the hope of everlasting life
The son that she will bear to you is Jesus the Messiah” *(Refrain)***

**Like Joseph woke from sleep to find his pathway had been changed
Still here today God calls us all to choose the better way
Beyond our wildest dreams is still a calling that remains *(Refrain)***

“O lowly maiden, O blessed woman, you have been chosen to bring us the king.
Peace be with you, O fairest holy one, Mary, mother, child of God.
Ave, Maria. Ave,” the angel sang.

“Fair one so gentle, filled with the Spirit, you will bear Jesus, the Savior for all.
Don’t be afraid now, God’s love surrounds you, Mary, mother, child of God.
Ave, Maria. Ave,” the angel sang.

“What will you call him, O lovely maiden?
Rulers and nations will bow at his name.
Let all creation give thanks for the holy one: Jesus, Savior, child of God.
Ave, Maria. Ave,” the angel sang.

(Translation from the Latin: “Ave, Maria” – “Hail, Mary”)

Call for the Offering

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.**

~ **The Sending** ~

Hymn #28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In dulci jubilo

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

Text: Medieval Latin, Trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853; alt. Music: German folk tune, 14th century. Harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953.
The Presbyterian Hymnal: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response

We Will Tell Each Generation



We will tell each gen-er - a - tion all that you, our God, have done:



how you called and let your peo- ple, chose us out_ to_ be your own.

Postlude

Forest Green

Bednall

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If you would like the church office to record your attendance today, you can:

- Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or
- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...
ADVENT STUDY 2022

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this

season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell the story of Christ's birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What about this season will you pass on to the next generation?

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go. Creators of this Advent program at *A Sanctified Art* have provided a special e-reader version of this year's Advent devotional, which you can access on your computer and mobile devices:

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/261712895/>

All related liturgy and artwork licensed by *A Sanctified Art* © A Sanctified Art LLC. All Rights Reserved.

The **VMC LUNCHEON** to help feed the homeless is on Tuesday, December 20th and is being coordinated by Carol Kraft. A sign-up sheet is on the narthex table. **We need a VMC Meal Coordinator effective January 1st**. The position involves informing FPC membership of the need for monthly assistance and scheduling volunteer coordinators each month to recruit servers. If you have questions, please contact Kirk Morris or Jean Peretz.

A special thank you to all who donated gifts and helped to sort and deliver presents to **Sunset Gap**. Your kindness and generosity will certainly brighten a child's holiday this year. *Thank You!*



REMEMBERING OUR MISSION WORKERS:

Mailing Christmas cards each year shows our mission workers in a small, but very real way, our interest and commitment to them. 1 USA Global Forever stamp (\$1.40) will cover the postage, or you can use 3 regular first class postage stamps and mark Air Mail on the envelope. Addresses are:

Mark Hare and Jenny Bent (Keila & Annika)

c/o Mauricio Chacon-UBL
APDO 901-1000
San Jose
Costa Rica

Cobbie and Dessa Palm

c/o Divinity House
14 Mack Street, Bantayan
Dumaguete City 6200
Philippines



Christmas Services

Join us on **Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24th**
for Candlelight and Communion Worship Services:

5pm Casual Service or 7pm Traditional Service

We will also celebrate the birth of Christ and worship on
Christmas Day, Sunday December 25 at 10am

Christmas Joy Special Offering

Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. The final Special Offering for 2022 is the annual Christmas Joy Offering which will be collected between now and December 18.

To Donate:

Use an envelope provided at the church or
Send a check to FPC with *Christmas Joy Special Offering* on the memo line or
Submit a gift through e-giving at fpcn.org

2022 YEAR-END GIVING REMINDERS

- To be counted as a **2022** contribution:
 - Checks or cash must be received at FPC or mailed items postmarked **by 12/31/22**.
 - Donations by credit card are deductible in the year the donor makes the charge (transaction posting date).

- ACH, EFT, stock transfers or other online donations are deductible in the year the bank transfers the stock or funds to FPC. Please make sure your online giving is initiated by Tuesday, Dec. 27th in time for the transaction to post on Friday, Dec. 30, 2022. The donation confirmation page on our website will confirm the date your account is debited for online giving transactions.
- Don't file your 2022 tax return before receiving your FPC 2022 year-end giving statement, so that you have IRS-compliant documentation of any gifts of cash or checks to FPC that are \$250 or more.
- Year-end donations statements will be mailed by Jan 31st, 2023.



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

If you would like to help us offset the cost of decorating the church for the holidays by making a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, just fill out this form and include your check made payable to Farragut Presbyterian Church, with “*Holiday Decorations*” designated in the memo line. Place your check and this form in the offering basket, drop them off in the church office or mail them to the church. **Our cost per poinsettia is \$10.00**, however, your gift may be in any amount. An insert will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin listing the devotions.

I am making a gift towards holiday decorations, to the Glory of God, and:

Please Print Clearly

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

Donated by: _____



This Week at FPC

Sun, Dec 11	9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship		
Mon, Dec 12	9:00	a.m.	KidZone/Room 10
	10:00	a.m.	Growing Families Small Group/Room 5
	6:00	p.m.	Youth Group/Room 10
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	6:15	p.m.	STEM Scouts/Fellowship Hall
Tues, Dec 13	7:00	p.m.	Christian Education Committee/Trussell home
	7:00	p.m.	Stephen Ministry/Room A
	9:15	a.m.	Big Fish Christmas Program/Sanctuary
Wed, Dec 14	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #1/Room A
	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #2/Library
	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts #444/FH, Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Session/Library
	9:15	a.m.	Big Fish Christmas Program/Sanctuary
Thur, Dec 15	10:00	a.m.	PW Circle #3/Library
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Sanctuary
	8:00	a.m.	Men's Bible Study/Narthex
Fri, Dec 16	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scout #444/Fellowship Hall
	7:00	p.m.	Thursday Night Bible Study/Zoom
	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga Class/Fellowship Hall

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Class	Room	Topic
Adult Bible Study	Outside or in the Parlor in bad weather	This class discusses the Lectionary text from the sermon, and still meets under the trees in good weather and in the parlor in bad weather.
Monday Connection	Zoom and Room A	This group is discussing the book <i>Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved</i> , an autobiography by Kate Bowler who is facing cancer and the prospect of her own mortality.
Intergenerational Advent Study for Adults and Youth	Library	Thru Sunday 12/18 youth and adults are invited to join together to study "The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith in the Story of <i>The Grinch</i> ." Contact Mason Warren for more information at masonwarren@fpctn.org .



Farragut Presbyterian Church

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Praising God - Serving Others - Growing in Faith