

# First Presbyterian Church of Naples

*In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God*



First Presbyterian Church of Naples  
December 23, 2018  
LITURGY BULLETIN

**THE TIME OF GATHERING**

Welcome and Life Together

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

**SERVICE OF PREPARATION**

\*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

KENT, VICKI, KENT JR., LAURA AND WEB BARRON

Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming. Light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, remembering the promises of God.

Acolyte: We light this candle of joy. Hear the prophet Zephaniah's song of joy: "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you with his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."

Leader: God of hope and peace, God of joyous good news, surely you are our salvation.

**People: *We will trust and not be afraid.***

Leader: For the LORD is our strength and might: God has become our salvation.

**People: *With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation.***

Leader: And we will say in that day,

**People: *rejoice in the Lord always; again we say rejoice.***

**All: *Let us worship God!***

**A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION**

\*Hymn of Praise # 161

***Once in Royal David's City***

IRBY

1. *Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*
2. *He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.*
3. *Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*
4. *And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.*

Call to Confession

BEN CURRIER

Friends, in this Season of Advent we anticipate the coming of Jesus: the savior who came to us long ago, the one who will come to us at the end of time and who by the Holy Spirit is with us even now. In Him we know the love of God from which nothing can separate us. Assured of God's love and mercy, let us confess our sins together, praying our prayer of confession.

## Prayer of Confession

***Faithful and Loving God, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. You come with love and humility, and yet in our sin and pride we close our hearts to your grace and light. Forgive us. Prepare your way in our hearts. Strengthen us to believe your advent promise that we may be caught up in the eternal and might join the shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lead us by your grace and love that we may sing new songs of gladness and walk in the way of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

## A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

### Congregational Response

***All: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.***

## Declaration of Pardon

Leader: **Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Receive God's forgiveness and be at peace.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## \*Gloria Patri

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen! Amen!***

## Children's Time

REV. REX CHILDS

## THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

**Let us pray. Loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit would open now our ears to hear, our eyes to see, and our hearts and minds to receive your word. Amen**

## First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

PEW BIBLE PAGE 555

**Our first reading this morning comes Isaiah, chapter 9. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Choral Response

## **Gentle Mary Laid Her Child**

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary laid her Child lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger: Such a Babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of every race who have found his favor. Angels sang about his birth; Wise Men sought and found him; heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him: Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing; all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

## Second Reading

Luke 1:57-80

PEW BIBLE PAGE 832

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.<sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father.<sup>60</sup> But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John."<sup>61</sup> They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."<sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him.<sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed.<sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God.<sup>65</sup> Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea.<sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.<sup>67</sup> Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:<sup>68</sup> "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us<sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

## **Preparing the Way**

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

## \*The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.***

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and 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.***

### Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

**Please pass the Friendship Pads so everyone in your row may sign in and so that you can see who is worshipping with you this morning. Let us pray. Loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit would open now our ears to hear, our eyes to see, and our hearts and minds to receive your word. Amen**

## The Offertory

## Star Carol

JOHN RUTTER

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies; Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle, Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary! *See his star shining bright In the sky this Christmas Night! Follow me joyfully; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!* Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, Bear the news with its message of good cheer: 'Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us. See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep. Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him, Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary. Let us all pay our homage at the manger, Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night; Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation; Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

## \*The Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## \*Prayer of Dedication

O God of hope and love, you have given us the gift of life, the gift of this day and the gift of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. With shepherds and angels we rejoice and with gladness now we give back a portion of what you have given to us. Use what we give and use us in your ministries of love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## GOING FORTH

### \*Hymn of Commitment # 150

### ***What Child is This?***

GREENSLEEVES

- 1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*
- 2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.*
- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.*

## \*Benediction

## Postlude

## ***Noël Suisse***

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

## **Flower Dedication**

The Chancel Flowers are given by  
Juliette Francoeur in honor of Pat Calderwood  
and by  
Nick and Sara Linn  
in celebration of peace, love and happiness.

## **Assisting**

Ushers: Gerald Neff (head usher), Bob Cook, Paul and Helen Corwith,  
Richard and Joan Eisenhauer, Karl and Barbara Heissner, Chris Jones, Saralene Oldham,  
Jay Swallen

Greeters: Kay Girbert, Hansen and Jane Long, Cal and Linda Pratt, John and Linda Rader  
Stephen Minister: Saralene Oldham

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

### Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a program of our congregation that equips lay persons to provide distinctive Christian one-on-one care to those who are experiencing various kinds of life needs and circumstances in our congregation. If you feel the need for someone to hear your problems and/or walk a difficult journey with you, please visit the Stephen Minister table in Spencer Hall or call the church office.

### Hospital Ministry

Will you be hospitalized or know of someone in the congregation who is? Please contact Sharman Pfaus so she can notify the pastor of your hospital stay. Also, please remember to note on the hospital paperwork that you are a member of First Presbyterian Church of Naples.

### Lunch Bunch

Don't go home or out to eat alone! Join other FPC single men and women for lunch every Sunday after worship for a fun-filled Dutch-treat lunch at one of Naples' selected restaurants. You will get to know some nice people and have a wonderful meal. Best of all, you are not eating alone. There is a table in Spencer Hall to sign up after worship service giving you the time and place. Join us!

### PRAYER LIST

Penny Allyn	Marcia Kempers	H.A. Sumerfield
Patty Bishop	Walter Korntheuer	Bill Winfield
Sue Buck	Pam McKahan	Scott Winfield
Elsie Connell	Chris Nordbrock	The U .S. Military
Wendy Evans	Jane Payne	Stephen Ministers and
Tom Goodrich	Alice Rich	care receivers
Bill Harrington	John and Tricia Schall	
Tommi Hosterman	Hannah Sellars	
Mike Jans	Mary Socci	

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Nursery and Sunday School

The Nursery and Sunday School rooms are open in Room 205 of the Mase Christian Education Center at 9 a.m. Following the Children's Time, the children will be escorted to the upstairs classrooms where they may be picked up following the service.

### HUDDLE

The Men's noon-time Bible Study continues every Thursday in Spencer Hall. Bring your lunch and Bible and join them for discussion and study. All men are invited.

### Ushers Needed

USHERS are needed for the Season of Music concerts. If you can help, please sign up TODAY in Spencer Hall after the service. Questions? Contact Chuck Gomori 239.248.2665. Your help would be appreciated.

### Church Calendar—Room Requests

We'd like to remind you to contact the church office to schedule meeting space. Please do not assume that if a room is vacant that it is available for use. Contact Director of Facilities, Sandy Poore to reserve a room for your meeting.

### Name Tags

Please remember to wear your name tags to worship and church meetings. There are many visitors and regular attendees, so please introduce yourself and welcome our new friends!

### **Service time changes in the new year**

As of January 6, 2019 we will return to our winter worship schedule of two services, 8:30 and 10:15 a.m.

### **Office Hours**

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 25 and Wednesday, December 26. On Monday, December 31 the office will close at 2 p.m. and will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2019. The Preschool returns on Thursday, January 3, 2019.

### **Worship Services Online**

Do you know of someone unable to attend worship? Would you like to share the service with someone? You can view or replay the worship service on [our website](#). The Sunday morning service is available for viewing Sunday afternoon. You can also view previous worship services by visiting the online archives.

### **Did you miss the Christmas concert?**

You can now enjoy the beautiful music of our Christmas Concert by watching it online. Please visit our website [www.fpcnaples.org/music](http://www.fpcnaples.org/music).

### **Year End Giving**

Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministry of First Presbyterian through your generous tithes and offerings. December is always the month in which we receive a large share of annual contributions. All 2018 contributions must be received in the church office by noon on Monday, December 31, 2018 or postmarked by December 31, 2018 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for tax year 2018. On-line contributions will follow similar guidelines and will need to be processed by December 31. If you are prepaying your 2019 pledge, please indicate "2019 Pledge" in the memo. If you have any questions, please contact Anna Focht, Director of Finance.

### **Cell Phone Collection**

Calling all old cell phones! The Shelter for Abused Women and Children is accepting donations of old cell phones. They will remove the sim cards and reset the phones for 911 use only. The phones are then distributed to women for their use in emergencies. Phones can be brought to the Missions table on Sundays or donated in the church office during the week. Thank you for helping those with emergency safety needs.

### **Lunch Prep at St. Matthew's House**

Several FPCN members help to prepare lunch every Monday morning from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. We are a bit short of choppers, sandwich makers, and salad assemblers this holiday season. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Betty Plum at [bplum1188@aol.com](mailto:bplum1188@aol.com) or at 239.732.8799.

