

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God



First Presbyterian Church of Naples
December 30, 2018
LITURGY BULLETIN

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. REX CHILDS

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*Call to Worship (from Psalm 148)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

People: Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.

People: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling God's command!

Leader: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

People: Kings of the earth and all peoples, young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

*Hymn of Praise #171

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1. *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain: *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, off-spring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Refrain.*
3. *Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain.*

Call to Confession

SARALENE OLDHAM

Friends, Christ Jesus came to save us, not because of our works, but according to the mercy of God through the water of rebirth and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. So, trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not always welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Congregational Response

All: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ our Savior gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people. In the name of 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

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh – good news of great joy for all – so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

First Reading

Galatians 4:4-7

PEW BIBLE PAGE 947

Our first reading this morning comes Galatians chapter 4. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choral Response

Christians, Come, Rejoice and Sing

GERMAN CAROL

Christians, come, rejoice and sing, 'tis the birthday of the King; *Ex Maria Virgine*; the God, the Lord, by all adored forever. Christ was born on Christmas Day; wreath the holly, twine the hay; *Christus natus hodie*, the Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.

Second Reading

Luke 2:22-40

PEW BIBLE PAGE 833

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what

was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

What's Next?

REV. BILL CRAWFORD

*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.

In this Christmas season, as we celebrate the gift of the Christ-child to the world, we are also mindful of all the other things with which we have been blessed. In gratitude for all we have been given, we are called to respond by giving back. Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth. We will now receive the morning offering.

The Offertory

Sleeps Judea Fair

HUGH MACKINNON

Sleeps Judea fair, Bides the Christ Child there: Shepherds, haste ye! Flocks forsaking, Swift your way to Him be taking, Babe, of Israel's prayer. Christ from God is come Choosing earthly home: Royal pomp and splendor never, But with love which naught can sever, He will heal the dumb; Christ from God is come. Lowly bend the knee, Thou from sin set free: Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling, Infant wise all woe beguiling, Grant His grace to thee!

*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

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks and praise that you chose to be in relationship with us through the wondrous gifts of your Son and the Holy Spirit. Receive now our gifts, both those given here and electronically that they may be used to magnify and glorify your name. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen!

GOING FORTH

*Hymn of Commitment # 151

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain.*
- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain.*
- 3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain.*

*Benediction

Postlude

**Vom Himmel hoch
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)**

JOHANN PACHELBEL

Flower Dedication

The Chancel Flowers are given by
Shirley Hagerson in loving memory of her husband, Larry
and
Richard and Joan Eisenhower in honor of Joan's 84th birthday on December 31
and
Connie Huffman and the Droll family in loving memory of Martha Droll Walker.

Assisting

Ushers: Gerald Neff (head usher), Paul and Helen Corwith, Richard and Joan Eisenhower, Carmela Gilbertsen, Karl and Barbara Heissner, Chris Jones, Dottie Morse, Saralene Oldham, Jay Swallen

Greeters: Florence Calyore, Tom and Donna Dardani, Calvin and Janet Koonce, Daisy Scott

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

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.

Men's Morning Fellowship

All men are welcome to join us at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, January 2 in Spencer Hall. Rev. Rex Childs will lead us in the discussion of "Men and Unity".

Removing of the Greens

Join us on Thursday, January 3 from 9-11 a.m. to pack and store our Christmas decorations. Refreshments will be served. Everyone welcome...many hands make light work!

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.

Office Hours

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.

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.

Presbyterian Women's Gathering

The January Gathering will be held at noon on Wednesday, January 9 in Spencer Hall. We look forward to an intriguing program by Alison Yang, "What's In a Name?" Our menu will be pork tenderloin, roasted fingerling potatoes and carrots, coleslaw, and assorted cream pies. Luncheon reservation (\$7) can be made at the PW table in Spencer Hall.

Stamp Ministry

For many years First Presbyterian Church has collected and shipped stamps to the Alliance Stamp Ministry in Fort Myers. While we don't get as much mail as we have in the past, every little bit helps. So, if you haven't already, won't you join this very worthwhile ministry of Sew and Sews? ANY stamp is accepted. There is a "Stamp Box" in Spencer Hall and one in the Reception Area of the church office.

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!

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.

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.

Volunteer Work Day at Grace Place

Help is needed on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at the Grace Place Campus from 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m. Several projects are available both inside and outside the new Jilk Family Center. Tasks include laying mulch around the campus, unpacking and organizing from the move to the new building, setting-up for the spring semester and putting down decorator landscape shells around the new building. Please contact Sherry Hoffman, 239.649.4402, for further information.

