

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

*In the Heart of Naples with the Love of God:
we worship, we love, we grow, we serve*



Hope

Peace

Joy

Love

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020
LITURGY

*Let us quiet our hearts, minds, and voices for the beginning of worship.
At this time, please silence all cell phones.*

The Prelude

Chorale Prelude on 'Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme'
(Sleepers Awake, the Voice is Calling Us)

J. S. BACH

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

BETTY PLUM

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

Acolyte: **We light this candle in hope. Hear God's promise of hope from the prophet Isaiah.**

"Comfort, comfort my people says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one crying in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Leader: Faithful God, out of death you bring life.

People: Renew us in hope that we may be alert to Christ's advent among us.

Leader: God of promise, God of hope,

People: into our darkness come.

All: Let us worship God.

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Hymn of Praise (*soloists only, congregation seated*)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain.

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Prayer of Confession

Restore us, O God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating: from fear that blocks the way of love, from worry that blocks the way of joy, from isolation that blocks the way of relationships, from structural injustices that keep the world bound. Forgive us, O God of hosts, until the stars fall from heaven and we live as people transformed.

** Please stand if able*

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Hope does not disappoint us, for God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism. Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

BETTY PLUM

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open to us your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts – a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

Our first reading this morning comes from Isaiah, chapter 64. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Interlude

Advent Message

MARTIN HOW

Danielle Parks and Francesco D'Agostino

Second Reading

Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

* Affirmation of Faith (*The Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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.

GOING FORTH

Hymn of Commitment (*soloists only, congregation seated*)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on 'Savior of the Nations, Come'

PAUL MANZ

Dismissal

Ushers will dismiss you by row following the Postlude.
Please remain seated until directed to dismiss.

Offering

Offering boxes are located on the wall by the exit doors.
You may also submit your offering by mail or online at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Flower Dedication

The Chancel flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Ushers

Bill Kearney (head usher), Michelle Bloom, Ned Camuti, Patty Rutzler, John Slager

Greeters

Richard and Barbara Beach, Roy and Karen Parker, Linda Pratt

PRAYER LIST

Jackson Barton
*Sharon Cumming
*Joy Frantz
Giraldo-Castano Family
Wayne Godwin
*Bob Graham
Jeri Kett
*Jane Long
*Diane Miller

Domonique O'Connell
Ethan Ridgway
Stuczynski Family
H.A. Summerfield
*Charlotte and Dale Waters
The U.S. Military
Stephen Ministers and
care receivers
* church member

Missionary (Honduras)
Dorie Hjalmarson
Central Presbyterian
Reformed Church, Matanzas,
Cuba
Rev. Ary Fernandez Alban
Rev. Beidy Casas Aragon
Yaquelin Arvelo
Keimi Horta

Zoom Calendar of Events

Zoom with the Pastors

Please join us on December 2 at 11 a.m. for a brief message from our pastors, Craig and Rex, and a time of fellowship. Please register (reservations@fpcnaples.org) by 4 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to ensure you receive the link to the meeting.

Children and Youth

All children, youth and young adult programming is being held online at this time. Kidz Lab (our interactive Sunday school experience for grades pre-K – 5) meet Sundays from 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Youth Group (grades 6 – 12) meet on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and Young Adults meet on Sundays at noon (subject to change.) Please contact Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at nancyv@fpcnaples.org for questions and link information.

Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship

In December we continue a study on the disciples. Join other committed men in our congregation on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Following the presentation, we join in some question and answer sharing and follow-up discussion. We will gather via Zoom, at 8 a.m.

December 2: Cleve Cleveland with the disciple “Andrew” and Tom Gahagan with the disciple “Luke.” For Zoom instructions contact Rev. Rex Childs at rexc@fpcnaples.org or Bill Kearney at skearney239@comcast.net.

Huddle

A men’s lunch-time Bible discussion group. All men are invited and encouraged to gather with us via Zoom each Thursday from noon to 1:15 p.m. For Zoom instructions contact Karl Heissner at khh0725@atlanticbb.net.

The Spiritual Practice of Waiting

Join us for an Advent Journey on December 3, 10 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. *The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come. Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Join Rev. Rex Childs and Nancy Van Fleet for three sessions that will help prepare our hearts for the signature of this season – waiting. Not all kinds of waiting are alike. In Advent, we will explore three characteristics of Advent waiting followed by a time of Centering Prayer – the spiritual practice of waiting.

Week One, December 3 – Advent Waiting is Expectant

Week Two, December 10 – Advent Waiting Requires Making Space

Week Three, December 17 – Advent Waiting is Hopeful

Each week we will contemplate these different themes through scripture, song, centering prayer and blessing. Contact Nancy Van Fleet nancyv@fpcnaples.org or Rev. Rex Childs rexc@fpcnaples.org for Zoom information.

Missions

Christmas Joy Bags

The Angel tree has been modified this year. We will be filling holiday bags with gender neutral items for children age 2 - 4. All bags must be uniform with respect to contents. Extra items are permitted, but they must be in a separate bag. Joy Bags, with the list included, are available at the entrances, or you can fill your own bag with the requested items: finger puppets OR small foam ball, stickers, small stuffed animal, coloring book and crayons, child's toothbrush and small toothpaste, band-aids with a fun design, and a wash cloth. Please return your filled bags by Sunday, December 13 to one of the two Christmas trees located in the Narthex or the church office entrance. Thank you for supporting the children of Mision Peniel.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Join our team for ringing bells at the Neapolitan Publix! We will be ringing in 2 hour shifts the week of Monday, November 30 through Friday, December 4. The fun begins at 10 a.m. and we end at 6 p.m. Put on your Santa hat, wear your Christmas sweater or t-shirt, and ring that bell for Salvation Army! To sign up contact Sherry Hoffman at 239.649.4402.

Chancel Flowers

Do you have a special event coming up? Would you like to remember a loved one who has passed? Do you know of someone celebrating a special birthday but don't know what to get them? How about dedicating flowers in memory or honor of them? Just call the church office with the date you would like to remember your loved one and a dedication will be placed in the Sunday bulletin. There are several dates available. The cost is \$65 per dedication. Please be sure to include 'flowers' in the memo section of your check. Or you may give online at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Stephen Ministry

These are trying times and life's difficulties can be overwhelming. Are you in need of prayer? Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one lay caring ministry we have at FPCN. Our lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers, have been trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are going through a difficult time. To learn more or to pray with a Stephen Minister contact the church office at 239.262.1311.

Giving

Your gift has an impact on every aspect of our ministry. Our entire church community is grateful for your continued support of and belief in the mission of The First Presbyterian Church of Naples.

You may give by mailing your contribution to the church at 250 Sixth Street South, Naples, FL 34102, or give online through our secure website, www.fpcnaples.org/give. For information or questions regarding your giving, please contact Anna Focht, Director of Finance, annaf@fpcnaples.org.

Palms Society

Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee - Job 12:8 At this time, let us take time to look at OUR earth and rejoice and remember all of God's works. The Palms Society is a way to honor those who include the church in their long-range gift and estate plans. If you want to remember our church through the Palms Society, please contact either Rev. Craig Goodrich, Anna Focht at 239.262.1311 or Linda Gadkowski at 508.292.5500.

*Celebrate
with us!*

Traditional
Christmas Eve Worship

4 p.m. & 7 p.m.

masks and social distancing

*Reservations required
call the church office or visit our website
to make a reservation*

www.fpcnaples.org/worship



STAFF

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone: 239.262.1311</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ministers			
Rev. Craig Goodrich, Senior Pastor		2035	craig@fpcnaples.org
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor		2027	rexc@fpcnaples.org
Music			
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries		2039	briceg@fpcnaples.org
Christian Education			
Jack Fogelman, Kidz Lab Teacher			
Audrey Gordon, Childcare Provider			
Ashley Hancock, Christian Education Assistant		2012	ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org
Nancy Van Fleet, Director of Children and Youth		2029	nancyv@fpcnaples.org
Office			
Anna Focht, Director of Finance		2042	annaf@fpcnaples.org
Angie Johnson, Office Assistant/Receptionist		2000	angiej@fpcnaples.org
Kathleen Law, Communications Coordinator		2013	kathleenl@fpcnaples.org
Sharman Pfaus, Executive Office Manager		2036	sharmanp@fpcnaples.org
Facilities			
Lisa Ethier, Custodian		2016	lisae@fpcnaples.org
Eduardo Martinez, Maintenance		2014	eduardom@fpcnaples.org
Sandy Poore, Director of Facilities		2028	sandyp@fpcnaples.org
Preschool			
Ashley Houk, Preschool Director		2009	ashleyh@fpcnaples.org
Lindsay Willkomm, Preschool Assistant Director		2038	lindsayw@fpcnaples.org



POINSETTIA DEDICATION FORM

Please fill out the following form and return it along with payment to the church office. Please note **Poinsettia Dedication** on the payment. All orders must be received no later than Sunday, December 6. Please use one form per dedication. Additional forms may be found online at www.fpcnaples.org. The cost is \$25 per poinsettia. Please **PRINT CLEARLY** the information you would like to appear in the dedication.

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Given by _____

Your name _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

A list of dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins.
 You may pick up your poinsettia following the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve or
 after the December 27 worship service.