

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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



**December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent
LITURGY**

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

The Prelude

Glory to God in the Highest

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLESI

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

BRICE AND COLIN GERLACH

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

Acolyte: Today we light the candle of love. Hear these words from the gospel of John, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Leader: God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, and God of love,

People: teach us how to love one another as reflections of your light in the world.

Leader: God of promise, God of light,

People: into our darkness come.

All: Let us worship God!

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Hymn of Praise #140

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 is gone.*

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Beloved siblings, the proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God in confidence. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin together. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us. Help us to turn back to you that we would leap for joy at your advent, your coming into the world.

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!

*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

NANCY VAN FLEET

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

SARALENE OLDHAM

Let us pray: Gracious God by the power and illumination of your Holy Spirit, we ask that you would open our eyes to see, open our ears to hear and open our hearts and minds to receive your word for us today. Fill us with your love and your song. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First Reading

Micah 5:1-5a

PEW BIBLE PAGE 756

Our first reading this morning comes from Micah chapter 5. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek. ²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Response

Song of Mary

RICHARD SHEPHARD

My Lord and Savior is my song, he fills my spirit with delight to raise me up his arm is strong, the lowly precious in his sight. *Magnificat, Magnificat anima mea Dominum* (My soul doth magnify the Lord). My name shall live from age to age, and ev'ry tongue his servant bless, for mercy is their heritage whose hars the Holy One confess. The proud beguil'd by dreams of pow'r divided and degraded lie: he casts them down from throne and tow'r and stoops to lift the humble high. He feeds the hungry at his board and sends the rich unfil'd away, and mindful of his promis'd word has answer'd Israel's prayer today. With all the elders of our race, and those unborn who seek this birth, I sing the glory of his grace who brings eternity to earth.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Singing with Mary

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

* 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.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

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***

GOING FORTH

Hymn of Commitment #147(vs. 1,2,6)

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. *The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

2. *They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Refrain*

6. *Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Refrain*

*Charge and Benediction

Congregational Meeting

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

LEO SOWERBY

Flower Dedication

Roni Haggart and Chuck Work, in loving memory of their parents.

Prayer List

In an effort to keep the prayer list current, names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks, unless we are notified otherwise. If you wish for a name to be included, please contact the church office.

*Linda Arsenault
Darryl Bernhardt
*Bill Crawford
Scott McCullough

*Jane Nordlund
John Robinson
Cynthia Scott

*Dan Stellema
Vanessa Uzupes-Owens

Schools and teachers
The U.S. Military
Stephen Ministers and
care receivers

* church member

Missionary (Honduras)
Dorie Hjalmarson
Central Presbyterian Reformed
Church (Matanzas, Cuba)
Judith Abreu, Carlitos Camps
Rev. Beidy Casas Aragon,
Joseito Martinez, Rolando
Morales, Idania and Nidia
Patria, Yadir Puron, Bello
Puron, Dr. Javier Vidal

Staff Christmas Tree decorating contest

The FPCN staff enjoyed their Christmas luncheon last week and everyone participated in a fun tree decorating contest. Each person was given a mystery bag and had to use only what was in the bag to decorate the tree within a set time limit! But whose tree is the most creative? We are asking YOU to do the judging. After the service please stop in Spencer Hall to cast your vote. The trees are numbered and all you have to do is simply write down your choice and put your vote in the red box on the table. The top three winning trees (and artists) will be announced next week. Thank you!

Ushers Needed

We have a great need for those who would be willing to serve as ushers, especially when we return to two services on January 9, 2022. If you are willing to serve, please contact Bill Kearney at 239.348.2871, or by email skearney239@comcast.net or see him after the service today in Spencer Hall. Your help is much appreciated.

Sew & Sews Stamp Collection

The Sew and Sews/Presbyterian Women are still saving stamps and sending them in to Stamp Alliance Ministry. These stamps are sold and monies collected are used to purchase Sunday School materials for Spanish speaking children nationally and internationally. Stamps can be trimmed leaving approximately 1/4" around the stamp. A collection box is located in Spencer Hall.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed Monday, December 27 through Friday, December 31.

Giving Opportunities

Disaster Relief

We have all seen the images of devastation brought about by the December tornadoes. We would like to offer you an opportunity to financially support recovery efforts through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance organization. PDA deploys people on the ground to provide basic needs to those affected and helps them rebuild their lives.

If you wish to support these efforts, you may send a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please note in the memo "Disaster Assistance." You may also give online through our website, www.fpcnaples.org/give. When prompted, select "Disaster Assistance" from the drop down menu. Contact Sharman Pfaus, sharmanp@fpcnaples.org, with any questions.

Palms Society—Legacy Giving

As we approach the end of the year, consider giving a gift of highly appreciated stock to the Palms Society at First Presbyterian Church. Consult your tax advisor for details. A very Merry Christmas to all and many thanks to those who joined the Palms Society this year. To learn more about the Palms Society please contact Linda Gadkowski, linda.gadkowski@gmail.com.

Year-end Giving

Thanks to all of you who have so generously given of your resources to the ministry of Jesus Christ in and through our congregation. As we head towards the end of our fiscal year, we ask that if you have been blessed financially you would consider an additional gift to help cover our 2021 budgeted expenses. Any funds received that exceed these expenses will be devoted to Mission. Thank you!

Year-end giving directly from an IRA

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are 70½ years old or older to make tax-free charitable distributions from IRAs. The gift can satisfy a pledge that you have made. To complete a QCD from your IRA, please make sure the check is payable directly to the First Presbyterian Church of Naples by your financial institution or IRA custodian. When giving, please be sure to consult with your tax advisor or lawyer to fully understand the current tax law. For general information, feel free to contact Sharman Pfaus, sharmanp@fpcnaples.org.

Please note: For contributions to be included in 2021 they must be postmarked by Thursday, December 30, 2021, as the Post Office will be closed on December 31.

Events

A Congregational Meeting will take place this morning following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to accept the terms of call for Rev. Craig Goodrich and Rev. Rex Childs.

Blue Christmas

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Not everyone is cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with tragedy or struggles puts a question mark over the future. Join us for a service of comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal on Wednesday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Wonder!

Join us after the 5 p.m. service or before the 7 p.m. service in the courtyard for our hot chocolate bar while enjoying some snow flurries in the Heart of Naples with the Love of God. (Coffee and tea "to go" also, provided by Kunjani Craft Coffee.)

Service time changes

Beginning Sunday, January 9, 2022 we will return to two worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

2022-2023 Preschool Enrollment

First Presbyterian Preschool will soon begin enrolling for 2022-2023. Registration will be completed online using our Sandbox Software program. Enrollment will be available for our half-day, part-time toddler, two, and three year old programs, and VPK. If you would like to schedule a tour of our preschool or request the registration link, please contact Ashley or Lindsay at 239.262.8315. You can visit our website at www.fppnaples.org for more information. Enrollment will be available as follows: **January 10**-church members; **January 17**-current families and siblings; **February 7**-new families.

Cell Phone Ministry

Has someone in your family gotten a new cell phone? If so, you can help protect vulnerable women and children by donating used cell phones to a charitable cause. The Shelter for Abused Women and Children removes all data from the phones, programs them to call 911 only, and provides these phones to survivors of abuse to ensure they have immediate phone access to call for help. There is a cell phone collection box in Spencer Hall. Thank you for your support of our mission partner. Please contact Kristin Vaccaro with any questions at 615.585.3244.

FPCN Green Team Launches 2022 Wednesdays at First-With Dinner!

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. and join us to welcome Rob Moher, President and CEO of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. During his 22 year tenure at the Conservancy, more than \$130 million has been raised to build upon the Conservancy's outstanding 57 year history of protecting Southwest Florida's water, land, wildlife, and future.

A light dinner will be available at 5:30 p.m. for \$10 followed by Rob's presentation at 6 p.m. Please join us in person for dinner or just for the presentation. Reservations may be made either in Spencer Hall or email Ashley Hancock at ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org. Please indicate whether you wish to come for dinner or for the presentation only. Questions? Contact Roni Haggart, vhaggart@gmail.com.

STAFF

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone: 239.262.1311</u>	<u>Ext.</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Ministers			
Rev. Craig Goodrich, Senior Pastor		2035	craigg@fpcnaples.org
Rev. Rex Childs, Associate Pastor		2027	rexc@fpcnaples.org
Worship & Music			
Dr. Brice Gerlach, Director of Music Ministries		2039	briceg@fpcnaples.org
Osei Allen, Sound and Video Technician			
Caitlin Hancock, Sound and Video Technician			
Christian Education			
Jack Fogelman, Kidz Lab Teacher			
Audrey Gordon, Childcare Provider			
Ashley Hancock, Christian Education Assistant		2012	ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org
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Preschool			
Ashley Houk, Preschool Director		2009	ashleyh@fpcnaples.org
Lindsay Willkomm, Preschool Assistant Director		2038	lindsayw@fpcnaples.org

Join us for Christmas Eve Worship

5 p.m.

Family Service

7 p.m.

Traditional Candlelight Service

Special music begins at 6:30 p.m.

Each of the services will also be available via livestream on our website.



First Presbyterian Church of Naples
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