

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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

Glory to God in the Highest

GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLES

THE TIME OF GATHERING

Welcome and Life Together

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

SERVICE OF PREPARATION

*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: **We light this candle of love. 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 (*soloists only, congregation seated*)

The First Nowell (vs. 1,2,6)

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*

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Prayer of Confession

An angel spoke to Mary: "Do not be afraid!" And yet, O Lord, we find ourselves paralyzed by fear of what we do not know. Forgive us of our sins, O Lord, and give us the faith of Mary to respond to your grace with lives of grateful praise. Let us hear the good news that she first heard: Light is breaking. Love is coming. The world is about to turn!

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! In love, God sent his only Son that we would not perish but have eternal life. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Receive that forgiveness and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

** Please stand if able*

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

O God, we have lit candles of hope, peace, joy and love that signal the coming of your Son, the Word made flesh. By the power of your Holy Spirit, illumine our hearts and minds as we turn towards your written word this day that we might be ever more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen!

First Reading

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

BARBARA WEISS

Our first reading this morning comes from Psalm 89. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. ²I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. ³You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: ⁴I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations." ¹⁹Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people. ²⁰I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; ²¹my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him. ²²The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him. ²³I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him. ²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted. ²⁵I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. ²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Interlude

Still, Still, Still

AUSTRIAN CAROL
ARR. NORMAN LUBOFF

Stephanie Nelson and Francesco D'Agostino

Still, still, still one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy Star its vigil keeping. Sleep, sleep, sleep, 'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you, close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number watch you as you sweetly slumber.

Second Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Love Came Down

REV. CRAIG GOODRICH

*The Apostle's 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.

GOING FORTH

Hymn of Commitment (soloists only, congregation seated)

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

- 1. 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!*
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*
- 3. 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!*

Congregational Meeting

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

LEO SOWERBY

Congregational Meeting

A meeting of the congregation will take place this morning following the worship service.
The purpose of the meeting is to approve our pastors' Terms of Call.

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 in loving memory of John Kay by Nancy and family.

Greeters

Cindy Esler, Les and Jean Kasten, Jeanne Perkins, Jill Purcell

Session Update

As we seek to “love one another” as Jesus taught us, the Session, at their most recent meeting, upon the recommendation of the Reopening Task Force, and due to the significant rise in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, approved holding Christmas Eve worship services online only. There will be no in-person services held. The taped Christmas Eve service will be sent by email early December 24 and available to view on our website.

Other reasons considered in making this change include the logistics of managing a much larger congregation than usual, many of whom will have traveled to Naples from other parts of the country and the potential of their carrying the virus unbeknownst to them. We believe that this is the best and safest approach to take at this time. Other local Presbyterian churches have made the same decision and the medical experts at Naples Community Hospital concur.

The online service will continue FPCN’s tradition of reading the Christmas scriptures, listening to beautiful music brought to you by our Director of Music, Dr. Brice Gerlach and hearing favorite Christmas carols sung by our soloists, along with the lighting of the Christ Candle. We invite you to participate by having a candle available as we sing Silent Night together.

For the time being, we will continue to hold Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. with all safety protocols in place.

Required precautions for live worship:

- All attendees must wear masks during the entire service.
- Social distancing is required. Seating and dismissal will be directed by the ushers.
- There will be no singing but you will be able to enjoy the soloists who will be singing the hymns and anthems.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 239.262.1311 and ask for Rev. Craig Goodrich or Sharman Pfaus, Executive Office Manager.

Your understanding of this decision is greatly appreciated. We wish you blessings and peace during this challenging Christmas season.

Office Hours

Christmas office hours will be: Closed at noon on Thursday, December 24, closed Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28. The staff is currently working in the office however, due to the increases of COVID cases, we are minimizing entry to the office areas. You may make an appointment with a staff member or call ahead if you need access to the building. We appreciate your consideration and help in keeping our staff healthy and well.

PRAYER LIST

*Linda Arsenault
Darryl Bernhardt
*Sharon Cumming
Giraldo-Castano Family
Wayne Godwin
*Bob Graham
Jeri Kett
Chris Knott
*Bill Law
*Jane Long
*Diane Miller
Dominique O’Connell

Betty Poore
Ethan Ridgway
Stuczynski Family
H.A. Summerfield
Elizabeth Tengler
*Charlotte and Dale Waters
Mike Wilson
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

Virtual Christmas Pageant

You are invited to join us for “Do Not Be Afraid” – A Virtual Christmas Pageant presented by our Family Ministry (24 minutes long) today at 4 p.m. After the showing, we will have a virtual fellowship time to meet the participants and also share with one another the good tidings of great joy we celebrate this season. We can still be together while we are apart, and don't forget to come with a hot chocolate in hand! RSVP with Ashley Hancock (ashley.hancock@fpcnaples.org) for the zoom link. Hope to see you there!

Christmas Concerts

Dr. Brice Gerlach recently taped two Christmas Concerts for all to enjoy. The Christmas Concert features our Choir Soloists singing a variety of carols and hymns. An additional concert to enjoy is Brice and his wife, Michele Byrd-Gerlach, in what normally would be presented to the Presbyterian Women for their Christmas Gathering. Please log on to our website, www.fpcnaples.org/music, to watch these two seasonal offerings.

Sew & Sews Stamp Collection

Just a little reminder that Sew and Sews/Presbyterian Women are still saving stamps and sending them in to Stamp Alliance Ministry. Just last week we sent in a large bundle - thanks to the kindness of many of you who have been saving them for us. These stamps are sold and monies collected is used to purchase Sunday School materials for Spanish speaking children nationally and internationally. So, when those Christmas cards come in don't throw the envelope away without removing the stamp.

Giving Opportunities

Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund

We are thrilled with our church community's response to our Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF). The Session established CERF to provide assistance to local agencies which provide for persons' basic needs. We are continuing to accept new donations through the end of the 2020 calendar year. You may give by mailing your contribution to the church or give online through our secure website (www.fpcnaples.org/give). For questions regarding your giving, please contact Anna Focht, annaf@fpcnaples.org. Thank you for your generous support.

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. One key benefit of the direct charitable contribution from your IRA is that the distribution counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). You can contribute more than your RMD to charity as long as you do not exceed \$100,000 in a calendar year. 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. If you are interested in general information, feel free to contact Anna Focht, annaf@fpcnaples.org.

Palms Society

We have a purpose, a plan, people and progress. Fifty-seven strong have committed either through their estate plan, retirement plan or gift to make our church's work continue. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all. To learn more about the Palms Society please contact Rev. Craig Goodrich, craigg@fpcnaples.org or Linda Gadkowski, lgadkows@capecod.net.



*The following people have donated poinsettias to beautifully decorate our Sanctuary for this Christmas holiday.
Those who have donated poinsettias may take them after the service next Sunday, December 27.*

*Richard and Barbara Beach in memory of their parents, John and Marjorie Beach and George and Margaret Tousaw
David and Barbarann Budd and family in memory of The David G. Budd, Sr. family and the F.R. Dumbaugh family
Florence Calyore in memory of John Calyore
Ned and Magge Camuti in honor of Caitlin and Matt, Kate and Daniel, Lucy
Carleton and Linda Cleveland in memory of loved ones
Pat Collins in memory of Bob Collins
Sharon Cumming in memory of her husband, Andrew Cumming, her father and step-mother,
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Moore and her mother, Mrs. Alice Kurth
The DeLessio and Ravech families in memory of Thomas DeLessio
Fran and Janette Engelhardt in memory of Fran's parents, Lorraine and Adam Engelhardt
Fran and Janette Engelhardt in memory of Janette's parents, Marjorie and David Keene
Fran and Janette Engelhardt in memory of Janette's sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Gerry Bass
Fran and Janette Engelhardt in memory of Fran's sister and brothers-in-law, Irma and Dean Bigham and
Kenneth Wild
Cindy Esler in memory of her wonderful parents, MaryLou and Bob Payne
Cindy Esler in honor of all the wonderful staff of First Presbyterian Church of Naples
Cindy Esler, Ryan, Sarah, Samantha and William in memory of a wonderful husband, father and grandpa,
Robert Esler
Tom and Mary Gahagan in honor of First Presbyterian Church's wonderful congregation and staff
Tom and Mary Gahagan in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary
Sted and Robin Garber in memory of R. Richard Kimbrough, Louise and Carty Hall
Sted and Robin Garber in memory of Louise and Carty Hall
Carmela Gilbertsen in memory of Robert E. Gilbertsen
Marilyn S. Groel in memory of her husband, Dr. John Trueman Groel and in honor of his WWII service
Shirley Hagerson in honor of her grandchildren, Amanda, Scott, John and Bailey
Roni Haggart and Chuck Work in honor of their children and grandchildren
Brad and Carlene Hoffman in loving memory of Harvey "Bud" Hoffman
Brad and Carlene Hoffman in loving memory of Dr. Harvey and Iola Hoffman
Sherry Hoffman in loving memory of Harvey "Bud" Hoffman
Sherry Hoffman in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. H.B. Hoffman and Rev. & Mrs. James W. Benes
Jay and Jane Holbrook in honor of Tim, Leslie, Josh and Ashley
Jay and Jane Holbrook in memory of Jesse and Norma Holbrook
Jay and Jane Holbrook in memory of Tim and Nickie Catlett
Patricia Hueter in memory of Edward Hueter
Nancy Kay and family in memory of John Kay
Russ and Mary Kempker in memory of their parents
Frank and Nancy Kiningham
Jana Knudson in loving memory of her parents, Jerry and Carol Knudson
Jana Knudson in loving memory of her sister, Sara and brother, Dane
Susan, Robert and Matthew Kogan in memory of Steven S. Kogan and James W. Black
Jack and Lucy Kuhne in memory of Kate and Henry Simpson and Etta and Rupert Kuhne
Kathleen Law in loving memory of Louise Daub
Mariellen Lemasters in memory and honor of her loved ones
Nick and Sara Linn in memory of John Kay
Nick and Sara Linn in memory of Janet B. Visgilio*





Laura McDonald in memory of Ken Siefers by their children
Laura McDonald in memory of Tom McDonald by their children
Margee Minnis in memory of her loving husband, Jim
Saralene Oldham in honor of Ben and Marilyn Currier
Roy and Karen Parker in memory of their deceased family members
Cal and Linda Pratt in honor of their children and grandchildren
John and Linda Rader in honor of their son and family Jane
John and Linda Rader in honor of their son and family and in memory of loved ones
Bruce and Jane Rogers and family in memory of Catherine and Elwood Bigler
Patty Rutzler in memory of her son, Jay
John E. Smith II in memory of Hal L. Smith
John E. Smith II in memory of Julia T. Smith
Susan Pierson Sonderby in memory of Peter R. Sonderby
Jack Tiller in memory of Joyce Tiller
Rick and Mary Towers in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Albert D. Pyle
Sheldon and Sally Veil in memory of Peter Mauger, Bonnie Veil, Mark Veil and Charlie Raunecker
Wilder Family in loving memory of her mother, Sarah Hooker and brother, George C. Wilson III,
and his mother, Olus B. McNelis, sister, Betty Blair Shaffer and nephew, David Shaffer

***May we all rejoice in celebration for
having been given the
greatest gift of all...
Jesus Christ.***

***Merry Christmas
from the staff of
First Presbyterian Church and
First Presbyterian Preschool***



Craig

Rex Bill

Nancy Anna Ashley

Sandy Ashley

Lisa

Sharman

Will

Kathleen

Angie

