

First Presbyterian Church of Naples

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



Simeon and Anna, by Jan van 't Hoff

**December 27, 2020
First Sunday of Christmas
9:30 a.m.**

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

The Prelude

**Rocking
Good King Wenceslas**

ARR. OVID YOUNG
ARR. YOUNG

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 him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

People: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

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

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

Leader: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

People: Let them praise the name of the Lord, his glory is above earth and heaven.

All: Let us worship God!

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

- 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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*
- Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*
- 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

Call to Confession

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 welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be truly good.
We have closed our eyes to 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 as Lord.**

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

** Please stand if able*

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ our Savior gave himself for us, so that he might redeem us from our sin and claim us as his own people. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Receive that forgiveness and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

DEBORAH MEESON-VIGE

First Reading

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Interlude

Noel Nouvelet (Sing We Now of Christmas)

FRENCH CAROL
ARR. RICHARD ZGODAVA

Paula Alva and Diego Davila

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we here Noel! Of our Lord and Savior, we the tidings tell. Sing we Noel! For Christ the King is born, Noel! Angels did say, O shepherds come and see, born in Bethlehem, a blessed Lamb for thee. In the manger bed, the shepherds found the Child. Joseph was there, and Mother, Mary mild. Magi oriental journeyed from afar. They did come to greet him 'neath the shining star. Now together sing, let our voices ring, Thanks to God on high. Sing we here Noel!

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And 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.

*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*)

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!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain.*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain.*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain.*

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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

JOHANN PACHELBEL

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 by Shirley Hagerson in loving memory of her husband, Larry.

Ushers

Bill Kearney (head usher), Ned Camuti, Saralene Oldham, Betty Plum, Patty Rutzler

Greeters

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

Prayer List

*Linda Arsenault	Betty Poore	Missionary (Honduras)
Darryl Bernhardt	Ethan Ridgway	Dorie Hjalmarson
*Sharon Cumming	Stuczynski Family	Central Presbyterian
Giraldo-Castano Family	H.A. Summerfield	Reformed Church, Matanzas,
Wayne Godwin	Elizabeth Tengler	Cuba
*Bob Graham	*Charlotte and Dale Waters	Rev. Ary Fernandez Alban
Jeri Kett	Mike Wilson	Rev. Beidy Casas Aragon
Chris Knott	The U.S. Military	Yaquelin Arvelo
*Bill Law	Stephen Ministers and	Keimi Horta
*Jane Long	care receivers	
*Diane Miller		
Dominique O'Connell	* church member	

News

Office Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 28, closed at noon on Thursday, December 31 and closed on Friday, January 1. The staff is working in the office during regular hours, 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.

Christmas Concerts

Dr. Brice Gerlach recently taped two Christmas Concerts for all to enjoy. The first 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. Please log on to our website, www.fpcnaples.org/music, to watch these seasonal offerings.

Wednesday Morning Men: Faith and Fellowship

In January we continue our study of 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. January 6: Rev. Rex Childs will present "Bartholomew" and "Simon the Zealot". For Zoom instructions contact Rev. Rex Childs at rexc@fpcnaples.org or Bill Kearney at skearney239@comcast.net.

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 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.

Membership at First Presbyterian Church

Do you want to know more about our faith, this congregation and how to become a member of our dynamic church? We want to encourage you in your journey of faith. Please contact either Rev. Craig Goodrich (craig@fpcnaples.org) or Rev. Rex Childs (rexc@fpcnaples.org).

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 to the church in memory or honor of them? It's easy to do. 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 and can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please be sure to include 'flowers' in the memo section of your check. Or you may give online at www.fpcnaples.org/give.

Thank you for your Giving

At the heart of our Christmas season is a celebration of gratitude to our members and friends who have impacted our church community in major ways. Whether through your volunteering, generous giving, or thoughtful notes to our staff, your support makes a tremendous difference at The First Presbyterian Church of Naples. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to share God's love with you, our community and world. During this holiday season, your trust and support is our joy. On behalf of the many people who benefit from your generosity, we thank you!

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 – Planned Giving

The Palms Society is a way to honor those who include the church in their long-range gift and estate plans. Fifty-seven dedicated members have committed either through their estate plan, retirement plan or gift to make our church's work continue. To learn more about the Palms Society please contact Rev. Craig Goodrich, craigg@fpcnaples.org or Linda Gadkowski, lgadkows@capecod.net. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all.

***Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Class of 2020 Elders and Deacons.
God has blessed our church through your ministry and your example.***

Elders

Jill Crawford
Shirley Hagerson
Jim Kier
Jerry Perkins
David Weigel

Deacons

*Charles Fraley
*Tedi Fraley
Kathy Grandi
Phyllis Harris
Holly Jensen
*Nancy Kier
Bill Morgan
Jeanne Perkins
*Daisy Scott

* will serve a second term through 2023

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
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
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Sharman Pfaus, Executive Office Manager		2036	sharmanp@fpcnaples.org
Facilities			
Lisa Ethier, Custodian		2016	lisae@fpcnaples.org
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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

