

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 Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 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

Meditation on “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

JOHN R. WATKINSON

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 peace. Hear Zechariah’s song of hope for peace for the Christ child. A reading from Luke: “You child, will be called the prophet of the Most High: for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

Leader: God of hope, Prince of Peace,

People: you speak peace into the world in the way of the Christ child.

Leader: Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may be called children of God.

People: God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness come.

All: Let us worship God.

A TIME FOR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.

“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Call to Confession

REV. REX CHILDS

Prayer of Confession

Faithful and Loving God, through your faithful prophets you proclaim and promise renewed life and peace. Yet, we give into anxiety, fear, conflict and division. We focus on our own security and neglect the needs of others. Forgive us. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, the way of peace, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the journey of God’s people will be hope and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

** Please stand if able*

A Moment for Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Receive God's forgiveness and be at peace.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we pray now that by the power and illumination of the Holy Spirit, you would open our ears to hear, our eyes to see and our hearts to receive your word for us today. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

SARALENE OLDHAM

Our first reading this morning comes from Isaiah, chapter 40. Hear now what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Musical Interlude

Every Valley

JOHN NESS BECK

Danielle Parks and Logan Gutierrez

Second Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

In the Wilderness

REV. REX CHILDS

*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.

TIME OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy...Let us pray together as Jesus taught us, saying:

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.

Words of Institution and Distribution—*communion cups are available when exiting the Sanctuary.*

GOING FORTH

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

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Congregational Meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to elect Pat Collins as deacon for class of 2023.

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Noël Suisse

LOUIS-CLAUDE DAQUIN

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 Julia Thompson Smith, by her family.

Ushers

Richard Beach (head usher), Shirley Hagerson, David and Sally Jackson, Tom and Jane Woodruff

Greeters

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

In Memoriam

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of
Warren "Pat" Jerome who died on October 23, 2020.



Pat Collins - Deacon Class of 2023

Education: BS, Murray State University (KY), M.Ed at University of Miami
Church Experience: Presbyterian Churches: Preschool and Elementary Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, Elder, Deacon, member of FPC for 20 years.

Professional background: Teacher in KY, OH and FL.

Other interests: Conservancy of SW Florida, Naples Botanical Gardens, State and National parks and historic sites, neighborhood and extended family activities.

Family info: Married to Bob (deceased), two adult sons.

PRAYER LIST

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

Dominique 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 9 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 16 when Jack Marsh will present the disciple John. 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—An Advent Journey

Join Rev. Rex Childs and Nancy Van Fleet on December 10 and 17 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom for 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 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.

News

Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Gracious thanks to all who rang the bells for the Salvation Army and the Red Kettle Campaign. They braved the heat, which turned into rain, and then became cold! Some of our volunteers even worked a double shift. You are appreciated more than words can say.

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 information or questions regarding your giving, please contact Anna Focht, annaf@fpcnaples.org.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous support of our community, especially during this time of uncertainty due to the impact by the Coronavirus.

On behalf of The First Presbyterian Church of Naples, we thank you!

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.

SESSION UPDATE

At the most recent Session meeting on December 1, upon recommendation of the Reopening Task Force and based on the most recent worship survey results, the fact of increasing COVID-19 cases and the advice and counsel of medical experts at Naples Community Hospital (NCH), the Session took the following actions:

- For those who are comfortable attending live worship in the Sanctuary, we will continue to worship with one service at 9:30 a.m. for the foreseeable future and into 2021.
- As the number of live worshipers approaches the "social distanced" capacity of the Sanctuary, the Reopening Task Force will recommend to Session consideration of revising the live worship schedule.
- For those who choose not to return to live worship, we will continue recording a worship service on Saturdays. It will be made available online and sent by e-mail early Sunday mornings. Church meetings and groups will continue to be held via Zoom at least through February 2021.

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.

The Reopening Task Force will continue to consult with the experts at NCH. We will continue to monitor the number of new Collier County COVID-19 cases, the Collier County COVID-19 testing positivity rate, whether any FPCN parishioners become ill or test positive for the virus after attending a live worship, and the adherence by FPCN parishioners to the Session's COVID-19 protocols, which will be among factors in its recommendations to Session. Rapid adverse changes in these factors may be cause for the Reopening Task Force to consider next steps in a timely manner.

As we seek to "love one another," we ask that you make safety your priority and ask that if you test positive for COVID-19 after attending a live worship service, to please notify the church office so that contact tracing can be done. Your privacy will be protected and we will not divulge names of anyone who reports positive testing results.

Your cooperation with these protocols is greatly appreciated. Blessings and Peace to you in this Advent/Christmas Season.

*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
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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

SERVING FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Elders

Class of 2020

Jill Crawford
 Shirley Hagerson
 Jim Kier
 Jerry Perkins
 David Weigel

Class of 2021

Norman Brown
 Duncan Connell
 Doug Jensen
 Saralene Oldham
 Barbara Weiss

Class of 2022

Carleton Cleveland
 Deborah Meeson-Vige
 Thomas Morr
 Patty Rutzler
 Janice Witman

Deacons

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

Jean Kasten
 Les Kasten
 Gary Nordbrock
 Betty Plum
 Linda Pratt
 Gary Root
 Janet Root
 Lee Ryan
 Martha Waddell
 Fred Witt
 Joyce Witt

Class of 2022

Barbara Beach
 Richard Beach
 Teresa Doane
 Cindy Esler
 Karen Parker
 Roy Parker
 Jill Purcell
 David Witman