

SOUNDING THE GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP, LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE & PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Canon de Noël"
English Carol, *The First Noel* (1833)
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

"I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27

INVITATION TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Hodges Family*

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Last Sunday, we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. We light it again as we remember that Christ, Who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God's promises to us.

ALL: The second candle of Advent is the candle of peace. Peace is a word that we hear a lot. It is one of the things we hope for. Christ brought peace when He first came to us and He will bring everlasting peace when He comes again.

One: The prophet Isaiah called Christ "the Prince of Peace." When Jesus came He taught people the importance of being peace makers. He said that those who make peace shall be called children of God.

ALL: We light the candle of peace to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace and that through Him, peace is found.

One: Peace is like light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle, we celebrate the peace we find in Jesus Christ. Let's pray.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CHORAL INTROIT - # 97

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

* HYMN OF PRAISE - # 79

"O Come, O Come, Emanuel"

* SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

* YOU ARE INVITED TO STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT

RESPONSIVE READING

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

One: "Blessed by the Lord God of Israel; for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.

ALL: He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of His servant David,

One: as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,

ALL: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

One: Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered His holy covenant,

ALL: the oath that He swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear,

One: in holiness and righteousness before Him all of our days.

ALL: And you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways,

One: to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

ALL: to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

RESPONSE - # 159

"Fairest Lord Jesus" (v. 3)

ALL SING:

*"Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight
and all the twinkling starry host; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast."*

TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

* HYMN - # 125

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Spirit, Come"
By Jeff Lippencott

PRAYER FOR GOD'S WISDOM & UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

MESSAGE

"A Voice in the Desert"

* AN ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Written by Nathan Nettleton, and posted on his **Laughingbird** website.*

ALL: *"We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.*

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!" Amen.

* HYMN - # 104

"Once in Royal David's City"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

"Toccata" on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)/Arr. Joel Raney (b.1956)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Huntsville

WHERE OUR MISSION IS:
To Know Christ and Make Him Known

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

Today, December 8

This Week

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship
Food & Fellowship

Tuesday, December 10

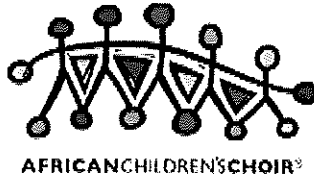
High Noon Concert

Wednesday, December 11

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team Meeting
11:00 a.m. Lectio
5:30 P.M. Dinner
6:00 P.M. Choir/Youth

Friday, December 13

7:00 P.M. African Children's Choir



Upcoming

Sunday, December 15

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes
10:30 a.m. Worship
Food & Fellowship

Tuesday, December 17

5:15 P.M. Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Lectio
5:30 P.M. Dinner
6:00 P.M. Choir/Youth

Welcome

We gladly welcome you to the First Presbyterian Church (USA) of Huntsville, Texas, trusting that if you are seeking Christ, you will find Him here; if sorrowing, receive comfort; if troubled in spirit, you will rejoice in hope; if friendless, find companionship. First Presbyterian has an active Sunday School Program and several thriving ministries that serve our community and world. If you do not have a church home, we hope you will join us. Please speak to our pastor or any member if you need more information about us. May God's blessing be upon you and yours during the coming week.

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Brenda Brock (Spiritual Formation) peace4utoo@hotmail.com
Meredith Clifton (Director of PDO & Family Ministry) meredith.fpch@gmail.com
Dr. David Fleming (Organist/Pianist) david_fleming_88@yahoo.com
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Emily Tuttle (Nursery Attendant)
Rev. Dr. Craig King (Minister) revdr craig6591@sbcglobal.net

For your convenience, there is an offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give to the church electronically, there are cards in the narthex with a website on one side, and a QR Code on the other. Thank you, and be blessed!

FOOD PANTRY/ BLESSING BOX NEEDS

Canned Chili, Ramen Noodle Soup,
& Canned Tuna