



Welcome to all who gather to worship this day! We are in the season of Advent, which focuses on preparing for the birth and coming again of Jesus into the world. It is our hope that you feel the warmth of God's presence and welcome here. If this is your first time joining us, we are honored by your presence and hope to see you again soon! To stay informed, scan the QR code or visit www.firstchurchlh.org and subscribe to our weekly email.

- About the Service -

Each worship service is filmed for later access on Facebook and our church website. Please refrain from loud conversation once the Prelude begins!

The People's words are in **bold text**. *Indicates that the congregation may stand.

Offering plates are in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship.



a member congregation of:

The Presbytery of Florida,
The Synod of South Atlantic, and
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Session (spiritual leaders of the church):

Moderator: **The Rev. Lisa Martin**
Clerk of Session: **Rosa Stanley**

Class Of 2021: **Marcia Burden, Steve Gabbard**

Class Of 2022: **Rich Kangas, Nancy Mills, Wanda Wallace**

Class Of 2023: **Huey Hayes, Ann Fyfe**

- CHURCH STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION -

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Brad Thoreson

Music Director, Organist
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Aline Trusell

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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“How Can I Keep from Singing” R. Lowrey, arr. Brad Thoreson

CHIMING THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP CHOIR & CONGREGATION

“While We Are Waiting, Come” Don Cason

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With pow'r and glory, come; with pow'r and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come Savior, quickly come; Come Savior, quickly come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Christ, Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

SOLO

“Sing We the Song of Immanuel” M. Boswell, M. Papa & S. Townend

Sing we the song of Emmanuel, This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God Most High in a manger laid, Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us, Join now with the hosts of heaven

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all, Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility, Come on bended knee, adore Him

Go spread the news of Emmanuel, Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads, for your King has come, Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark

Glory shining for all to see, Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise, Tell the world His name is Jesus

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56 (see back side fold)

MESSAGE

“Songs of the Season” Rev. Lisa Martin

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*DECLARATION OF OUR FAITH (PCUSA)

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a young woman of faith. Jesus lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman, as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

ANTHEM

“There's a Song in the Air” CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS SONG, arr. Dennis & Nan Allen

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a song of great joy at the wonderful birth.
For a virgin's sweet boy is the lord of the earth.
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a song in the night and it echoes with praise
for the Father of light and the ancient of days.
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

WE DEPART TO SERVE THE RISEN LORD

*HYMN

“What Child Is This” (see insert)

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN DANISH

*POSTLUDE

“Sing We Now of Christmas” French carol, arr. Brad Thorson

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 19 -

Everyone is invited to our Holiday Luncheon today! There's always more than enough food, so please stay after worship and help us celebrate this final week of Advent in festive style!

Today we receive the Christmas Joy offering which supports retired ministers who have special health needs and low income students at Presbyterian-related schools. Offering envelopes are included in the bulletin for your use. Make checks payable to FPC, memo: Christmas Joy.

Pastor Lisa's Zoom Advent Bible Study concludes tomorrow evening. The past three weeks we've explored how each of the Gospel writers presents the Christmas story. This final week we explore John. Join us via Zoom if you'd like!

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship service will be held at 5 pm this Friday evening. Let's fill God's house with praise for the gift of Immanuel, God-with-us!

Next Sunday we receive the Two-Cents-a-Meal offering, which supports food insecurity ministries of our congregation and Florida Presbytery. Thank you for giving generously so that children, youth, and adults may not suffer from lack of food this time of year.

As part of our worship next Sunday, we will install elders-elect. Don Mowat and Kathy Welsh will be installed as the Class of 2024. We are grateful to God for the service of our wonderful spiritual leaders!

Anyone wishing to make a year-end financial contribution to the church is asked to do so by 12/31, so that you receive tax credit for the correct year. Thanks to the congregation for generous giving this year! Because of you we have been a blessing to many worthwhile local and global organizations. Truly, we are blessed to be a blessing!

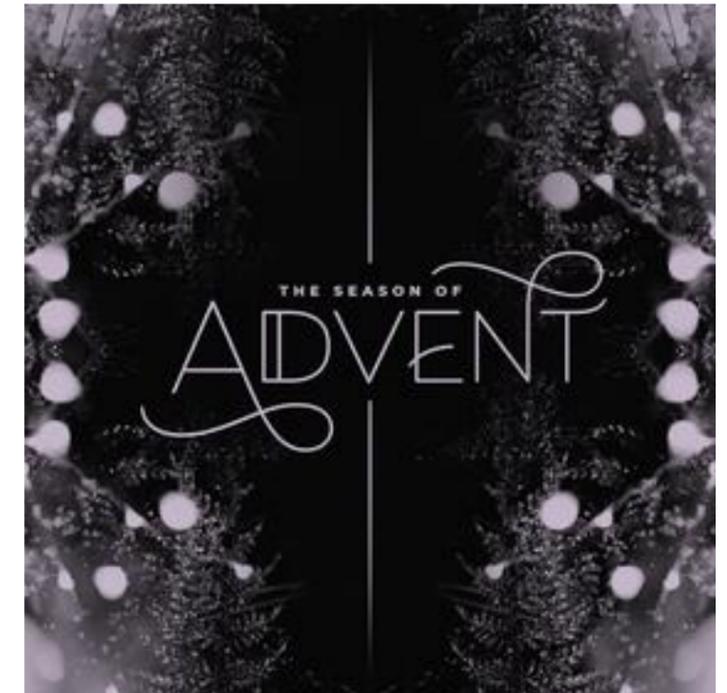
Looking Ahead:

- **12/20** Advent Bible Study, 6-7
- **12/24 Christmas Eve** Candlelight Communion worship, 5 pm
- **12/25** Merry Christmas!
- **12/26 1st Sunday of Christmas**, Installation of elders elect



VISIT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE ... from your bulletin! Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera and it will allow you to subscribe, view the bulletin, or visit the church website!

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-MORNING WORSHIP-
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**December 19, 2021
10:00 AM**

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST

145 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

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