

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 29, 2020
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader One: *If ever there was a year we needed Advent, this is the year. So little around us seems right; nothing seems like it used to be. How welcome the coming of Christ will be!*

Reader Two: *The prophet Isaiah cried out, "O that you, Great God, would tear open the heavens and come down." Tear through the mess, O Lord, and come down to us again. Realizing our brokenness, create us anew for being community in your image with all your people.*

Reader One: *We light this first candle as a sign of our hope that you can meet us, even in the mess of this world. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.*

Reader Two: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel! Let us pray, singing together, these words from the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel:*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

HYMN No. 54

Make a Joyful Noise to God!

DIX

**Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.**

**Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies, and rejoice!**

**Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life's sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.**

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Let us pray together . . . Creator God, we come to you with gratitude this morning for the many blessings we know and enjoy, for the time with family and friends we have shared, and for the love we have known in this life. We also acknowledge that love is sometimes realized too late, relationships appreciated only once they're gone, and others taken for granted when they deserve more. Lord, as we venture into this Advent season, may we be reminded of the love that lives around us through the darkness of night and the love of the one companion you have brought to save us. May we treasure our relationships, hold our dear ones close, and hold your Son closest of all.

We come to you now in silence as we reflect upon the faces of all those we cherish in this life . . .

(praying silently)

Our God fulfills his promises and is true to his word. We have confessed our sins. God has forgiven us because Christ died for us.

Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 2:18-23

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

God Is With Us (Community-creating): A Puzzle Piece Companion

SOLO

Dear Mr. God

The Warren Brothers

Dear Mr. God, I'm writin' you today, because it seems like lately I've forgotten how to pray. I know I don't need this pen, but everybody likes to get a letter now and then. I'm sorry for not writin' more.

CHORUS *'Cause I need you but it's hard to see why anyone as big as You needs anything from me. I know You're there. So how ya been? I'm alright but I can't lie, sometimes I feel like givin' in. You're all I've got.*

Dear Mr. God, sometimes I wish you lived next door so over coffee you could tell me what you started all this for. I guess you saw that sunrise yesterday. Thanks for the reminder that you're never gone away. It gives me hope telling you what you already know. CHORUS

Dear Mr. God, tell me do you ever cry when we forget to thank you for the good things in our lives? I know I can't always understand why you do the things you do, but I know in the end I'll make it through if I stand next to you. So here I am. Dear Mr. God, I'm writin' you today, because it seems like lately I've forgotten how to pray.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION,
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray . . . Holy and Loving God, thank you for the friends and companions we so love and enjoy. Thank you for the support and grace we receive from our puzzle piece spirits. You looked upon us and knew we could not be alone here and we needed others to help us through this life, to enjoy this life with... But furthermore you looked upon your children and saw the need for your spirit made flesh here, to hold our hands when we are scared, lift us up when we are weak, walk beside us in the dark, and sing with us in our joy. You gave us a piece of you as our constant and steady companion and savior, Jesus Christ whom we wait for this season.

Thanks to this blessing, we know that even though this world may be in chaos and suffering may abound, we do not belong to it as much as we belong to you. Thanks to this blessing, we know who we must follow to walk the path of righteousness that leads to knowing you. Thanks to this blessing, though we may be sick, dying, struggling, or stuck, we know we are not alone, and it is your Son—who cries with us and bears with us—our companion.

Lord we ask that this blessing be felt by all this season no matter where in the world or in life they may be. Your love prevails. May we hold tightly to the ones we love and remember well the ones we've lost, knowing all the while you are with us.

Lord we pray all these things in your name, praying the very prayer 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.

HYMN NO. 14 (st. 1,4,5)

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
REFRAIN Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: REFRAIN**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: REFRAIN**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

My Heart Rejoices

Edward Broughton

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To continue worshiping safely and COVID-19 friendly, thanks to each of YOU for physical distancing and wearing face masks when you are interacting with others inside the building.

NEW MEMBERS may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder. You may also call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote (tfoote@fpcbryan.org) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin (ebeghin@fpcbryan.org). They will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available in the narthex.
Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Worship related activity sheets and markers are available on the tables in the Narthex. Room 108 is available for your nursery needs. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted that you chose to worship with us today.



WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

LITURGIST

Cheryl Page

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTERS

Janice & Dave Haverland

USHERS | GREETERS

Yunior Torres Camargo;
Shelley Espinoza;

Ruth Ann Gholson; Karon Mathews

MUSICIANS

Michelle Lassiter, *piano & organ*
David Kipp,
Director of Music Ministries

AUDIO-VISUAL | SOUND

Bill McKinley; Nicole McKinley;
Jerry Norris; Bill Watson

LITURGICAL BANNER

Pulpit side: Advent Banner
by Becky Alter

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

9:20am Church School: The Word Class-303/via Zoom

9:20am Church School: Seekers Class-P/via Zoom

9:30am Church School: Loose Leaf Class-via Zoom

10:45am Worship LIVE STREAMED-S *

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 6, 2020

9:20am Church School: The Word Class-303/via Zoom

9:20am Church School: Seekers Class-P/via Zoom

9:30am Church School: Loose Leaf Class-via Zoom

10:45am Worship (with Lord's Supper) LIVE STREAMED-S *

* *During COVID-19, Room 108 is available for your nursery needs*

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

A CAROLING INVITATION



Caroling, you say? Yes! Why yes, we can! It will look and feel a bit different this year! You are invited to record a video of you and/or your family singing and/or playing on your favorite instrument a carol of your choice. Text your video to Rev. Béghin, 832-413-3012, **by Friday, December 11**. All submissions will be compiled into a video and made available on our YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and church website for all to enjoy!



This season, you are invited to a VIRTUAL “**The Longest Night | Blue Christmas**”—a **service of Wholeness in Advent** in a time when we may be separated from loved ones by distance or by death or experiencing a sense of loss in other ways. For many, the holidays are a time of remembering. Through sharing in song, scripture, prayer, and a time of remembrance, we tend to our souls and uplift one another in the hope and spirit of the holidays. This service will be available on our YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and church website homepage early to mid-December.

Visit us on the web! www.fpcbryan.org for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, updates, etc.

Check out “Advent Devotionals” on Facebook www.facebook.com/FPCBryan

NEW!!! on Instagram www.instagram.com Search for and follow **fpcbryantx1867** and/or **fpcbryan_youth**

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW when WORSHIP and ACTIVITY videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel!

Go to www.youtube.com, search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

Share prayer needs and church group news with fellow FPC participants on Church Updates!

is FPC-Bryan’s online tool for YOU to post church-related announcements, ways to serve, and your current prayer needs. While users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts, this online tool is “REAL

TIME.” Contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or office@fpcbryan.org to set up your account.

Then, login at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login> to create your password-protected account.

The deadline for our final newsletter of 2020 is Noon, Sunday, December 13, and will be distributed on Wednesday, December 16. This newsletter will cover news from December 23, 2002, thru January 13, 2021.

REACHING OUT TO OUR NEIGHBORS



Sunday, December 6, is FPC’s “Stock the Pantry” Sunday (the **Brazos Church Pantry**, that is). If you miss this Sunday, you are invited to bring your donated goods to the Patio anytime you are at the church or to the church office on weekdays. The Pantry’s needs are **toilet paper, personal hygiene products, and non-perishable foods. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated.** When you are out shopping this week, pick up extra items to share. Thank you for your generosity!

THE SALVATION ARMY ANGEL TREE



Once again, FPC has the opportunity to share in providing a wonderful Christmas for families in Bryan-College Station through **THE SALVATION ARMY. ANGEL TREE** An Angel Tree is set up on the FPC Patio. Angel ornaments on the tree provide the name, gender, age, sizes, and wish list for a child that you can help. Please consider “adopting” an ANGEL from the FPC tree and enjoy the experience of Christmas shopping at its best! Place your gifts for your “angel” near the tree in the Patio **by Friday, December 11**. *If you prefer not to select your Angel “in person,”* email Keith Halsell, halsell@verizon.net, to assist you with adopting your Angel.