

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2020
10:45 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Sing We Now of Christmas

arr. Cindy Berry

WELCOME AND LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

READER ONE: *We long for peace within each person's life and all around the nations; but peace can be elusive and seem far from us. We decorate our homes in sparkling lights and hope they will chase back the fears and worries that rise up within us. We cry for peace-- the peace only God can give to a world in darkness.*

READER TWO: *The prophet Isaiah reminds us to anticipate God's path to peace before us, assuring us that swords will one day be beat into plowshares, that love will be the law of this place.*

READER ONE: *We light three blue candles as signs of hope, faith, and peace which God only can give.*

READER TWO: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Let us pray, singing together, "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

Behold the Mountain of the Lord
(Words by John Logan & Michael Bruce, 1881)

ST. ANNE (GtG, 687)

**Behold! the mountain of the Lord in latter days shall rise
on mountain-tops above the hills, and draw the wondering eyes.**

**No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds disturb those peaceful years;
to plowshares all shall beat their swords, to pruning-hooks their spears.**

**Come, then, O house of Jacob! come to worship, learn, and pray;
Commissioned from your love, O God, Guide us to serve each day.**

~~~~~

Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, INTERCESSION, AND CONFESSION

*Let us pray together . . .* **Blessed are you, Eternal God, creating and nurturing your covenant people to love and serve you from generation to generation. Blessed are you, Jesus Christ, abiding with us in flesh, guiding the feeding of the hungry, the healing of the sick, the defeat of sin, and the growth of new life. Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, for empowering prophets, disciples, apostles, pastors, church leaders, and members of communities of faith to participate in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. On the journey of faith and as components of shared ministries, give to each one of your people gifts which can only originate from you: commitment and strength; integrity and hope; humility and humor; courage, perseverance, and an abiding sense of your presence. In these moments of silence, we also approach your throne of grace seeking your forgiveness where we have strayed from your guidance and fallen short of your desires for our well-being.**

*(pausing in silence for prayer)*

Make us whole in your love, Blessed One. In these moments and beyond, stir us for a rebirth of the power of the Gospel again and anew. Bring your new life among us for serving you continually in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ . . .

Friends, let us hear and share with gladness the blessed news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

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

Isaiah 2:1-5

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

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

God-With-Us Revealed to Early Isaiah:  
A Holy Investment in Growing Dignity and Respect

LITANY FOR ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

QUESTIONS OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION TO THE OFFICE OF RULING ELDER *(see insert)*

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION PRAYER IN SONG *(with extending / “laying on” of hands)*

HYMN *(st. 1,2)*

God of the Prophets

TOULON

HYMN *(st. 3)*

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

TOULON

**God of the prophets, call us for thy sake;  
Elijah’s mantle o’er Elisha cast;  
Each age its solemn task to undertake;  
Help each one serve you wiser than the last.**

**Make them apostles! Heralds of thy cross;  
Forth may they go to share thy love and grace;  
Inspired by Thee, may they count all but loss,  
And stand at last with joy before thy face!**

**Our hope is in no other save in Thee;  
Our faith is built upon thy promise free;  
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,  
That in thy strength we evermore endure!**

Hear us also praying now, as Jesus taught the community of faith to believe and give voice:

**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.**

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

HYMN NO. 119 (st. 1,3)

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!"**

REFRAIN **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.** REFRAIN

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

O Come All Ye Faithful

arr. Edwin McLean

+ + + + +

***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](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin ([ebeghin@fpcbryan.org](mailto: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 a table 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.

Those who sponsored poinsettias for today are:

- Bunny Douglas.....in memory of Ron Douglas
- Dave Lyons ..... in memory of Carolyn Dudley
- Kathrine MacNeil.....in memory of my parents, Helen & Otto Krehbiel
- Kathleen & Frank Palermo..... in memory of LeeAnn Palermo
- Kathleen & Frank Palermo..... in memory of Doris and Wm. (Bill) Todd
- Florence & Bookman Peters ..... in honor of our children
- Florence & Bookman Peters ..... in honor of our grandchildren
- Florence & Bookman Peters ..... in memory of our parents
- Florence & Bookman Peters .....in memory of Patricia Peters, Curtis Carter
- Debe & Scott Shafer ..... in memory of Peggy Shafer

# POINSETTIAS ORDER FORM



During Advent, poinsettias will be placed in our sanctuary on **Sunday, December 13**. Following worship, sponsors are invited to take their poinsettia home and/or deliver to a loved one. Poinsettias will again grace our worship space on **Sunday, December 20, and Christmas Eve**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_\_ Amount (\$20 per plant) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_

## DESIGNATION

\_\_\_\_\_

(IN HONOR OF)

\_\_\_\_\_

((IN MEMORY OF)

\_\_\_\_\_

(OTHER)

You may place your order and/or payment in the offering box today or mail it to the church office **by Monday, December 14.**

## A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS IN ADVENT

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 this week on our YouTube Channel, Facebook page, and church website homepage.



## What's the buzz?



**First Presbyterian Youth invite you to join in their mission project benefiting Heifer International.** *Heifer International works to end hunger and poverty by supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, they're investing in a new breed of success. Here's how you can participate...*

Jars of honey, donated by registered beekeeper Carolyn Lowry, are available for you to purchase, with 100% of the proceeds being forwarded from FPC-Bryan to Heifer International. Church members have invested time to “dress” the jars with decorative fabric. Ms. Lowry is a Bryan ISD faculty member at Rudder High School. She has family friendship ties to long-time FPC member Mary Alice Hall, whose favorite non-Presbyterian mission endeavor was Heifer International. And . . . Ms. Lowry’s beekeeping efforts began with bees from the Hall family ranch at Kurten. The jars of honey and prices are available on a table in the narthex.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

**“God is with us.” —Matthew 1:23 THE PERFECT GIFT—the Christmas Joy Offering—**celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribable gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders—past, present, and future. Envelopes will be included with your bulletins on **Sundays, December 20 & 27, and Christmas Eve, December 24.** As important as gifts to loved ones are, the PC(USA) gives throughout the year through the Christmas Joy Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God’s perfect gift to us. ***Please take a moment to read the insert in today’s bulletin.***

-----  
**Visit us on the web!** [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org) for the newsletter, announcements, worship bulletins, updates, etc.

**Check out “Advent Devotionals” on Facebook** [www.facebook.com/FPCBryan](https://www.facebook.com/FPCBryan)

**NEW!!! on Instagram** [www.instagram.com](https://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](https://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](mailto: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 Today and will be distributed on Wednesday, December 16. This newsletter will cover news from December 23, 2020, thru January 13, 2021.

---

# ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS, CLASS OF 2022

## DECEMBER 13, 2020

---

### RICK AVERY



I have been a member of First Church - Bryan for over twenty years and am a life-long Presbyterian. Raised in Needville, in Fort Bend County, my father served as minister of our church and my mother, herself a Presbyterian Preacher's Kid (PPK), sang in the choir.

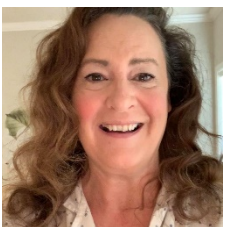
I attended Austin College and, when my wife Marcie and I moved to Bryan, we started attending First Church. I have served on Session previously and was humbled to be asked to do so again. With God's guidance I hope to be a faithful and productive elder.

### CHRISTY BECKER



I grew up in OK attending a Pentecostal mega church. In my late 20's I joined a southern Baptist church where Aaron and I dated and married. In Texas we attended a nondenominational Bible church in Waco and then College Station. FPC is my first Presbyterian church. Overall, I've been growing and learning. Examining scripture on my own, the writings of missionaries and theologians, discussions with my husband, and listening to others we greatly respect have had the most impact for me. I agreed to serve as an elder because this is the first church organization I've experienced where women have been included in congregation-wide leadership. The second is because I have the hope that my unique perspective will add value to any group discussion.

### LAURA BECKER



I am a writer and humorist who is currently attending Fuller Theological Seminary part-time in pursuit of my Master of Divinity degree. I have a background in arts education and honed my storytelling craft at The Second City and Improv Olympic. My husband of almost twenty six years, Donnie, and I moved to Bryan in September 2019. I previously served on staff at Bel Air Presbyterian Church, Hollywood Presbyterian Church, Knox Presbyterian Church of Pasadena, CA, and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Redondo Beach, CA, where I also served as an Elder and Clerk of Session. I look forward to serving where God has called.

### SHELLEY ESPINOZA



I came to FPC-Bryan in Spring 2010. I was a bit confused about my faith. I visited for several months. My family and I were welcomed with open arms and never pressured. As I journeyed I realized the foundation of a loving God my parents instilled in me and the importance of serving. In 2011 I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. With support from FPC-Bryan, I learned to put aside my ego and seek to live my life through Christ as I continue to walk by faith. When I received the call to serve, I was quick to answer yes. FPC-Bryan has supported me in ways they will never fully know. I was lifted up when ill, prayed for when times were tough, shared joys of my accomplishments, and welcomed as an FPC intern to finalize my Master's in Psychology. To have the opportunity to serve is not only a calling but an opportunity for me to give so freely of what has been offered to me over the years.

### SHERRY HINNANT



As a longtime member of FPC-Bryan, I have served in many capacities over the year: church school teacher for elementary and junior high as well as vacation church school. I've also been a deacon moderator for Community Services Committee and have continued for years serving as elder on Mission Committee including liaison for Still Creek Ranch. I've enjoyed being a member of the Seekers Class and Circle VII and am currently on Presbyterian Women's board as Mission Rep. My faith journey began growing up in FPC San Angelo where my mother was church secretary and my father was a ruling elder. I've always been a believer in Jesus Christ and would be honored to be able to serve again on the session.

### DAVID HOLDREDGE



I grew up in College Station and graduated from Texas A&M in 1967 (BBA in accounting). As a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner was in public practice for nearly fifty years, forty five years in Athens, Texas. I have been married to Marilyn for fifty one years and have two sons who live in Austin and Bend, OR, and two granddaughters. I served on session of First Presbyterian Church Athens as Chairman of Stewardship and Finance Committee. My faith journey began at A&M United Methodist Church at a very young age. By example my parents taught me to base my life on deeds not words. I look forward to serving on session.

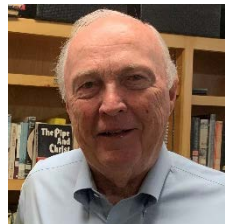


## CHERYL MORENO



Growing up in a Presbyterian church in Barberton, OH, I continued to attend Protestant churches for 30 years of Jim's military service. Jim & I, moving towards fifty two years, are blessed with three adult children & six grandkiddos who continue to enhance & fill our lives with joy. Having been a nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, former Deacon, Elder, CASA volunteer, and volunteering where needed, I believe my experiences have helped to form my life of striving for more service & humor. Agreeing to serve as an Elder with other church family members is very humbling for me in my faith journey. I know that for me being a Christian is an ongoing process.

## TOM REED



I am a native of North Carolina and have had the privilege of living in several areas including New Hampshire, Ohio, Tennessee, and Iowa. Pat and I relocated our family to Cedar Rapids, IA in 1985 where I served as President and General Manager of a specialty chemical company, Penford Products, until retirement in 1997. Previously I was with Mead Corporation for 25 years. In Iowa we were members of the First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids, where I served as an elder. We moved to College Station in late 2019 and joined First Presbyterian, Bryan. We have a daughter, son-in-law, and two grand-children near us in College Station. Two other daughters and families live in the Midwest. We are very happy in College Station and as members of First Presbyterian, Bryan.

## DEBE SHAFER



Attending and being active in church has always been part of my life. I was raised in the Church of Christ and joined the Baptist church after Scott and I married. In 1983 we moved to Salt Lake City, UT, where we found our church home in Wasatch Presbyterian Church and have been Presbyterians ever since. I hope to always nurture and grow my faith by continuing to ask questions, listen carefully and thoughtfully, and be engaged in a variety of learning experiences. I am thankful to be part of this church where I am surrounded by people filled with Christ's love and grace. I value the contributions of FPC-Bryan in our community and well beyond. Truly, this church walks the walk of Christ. I agreed to serve as an elder because I am excited about the future and would like to work with the Session to contribute in a meaningful way.

## SCOTT SHAFER



I was raised in the Baptist Church learning from a pastor and parents who placed heavy emphasis on the virtues of grace and love. That early faith environment allowed for growth through curiosity. Debe and I married at age 21 and together embarked on a faith journey that continues. We learned about the Presbyterian doctrine living in Utah where being part of a religious community took on new meaning. I have always appreciated that Presbyterians allow for faith to include the curiosity I was raised to value. That has helped my faith to grow throughout life. Service is an important aspect of life. Hopefully service can be applied in ways that assist others but there is also personal gain in service experiences. Serving as an Elder, with God's help, provides a meaningful opportunity to assist others. It also provides personal piece of mind through that purpose.

## ELLEN THORNTON



I spent my formative years, and college years in Florida. My husband, Rod, and I have lived in Texas for over 30 years, moving to College Station in 2001. We joined First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, In 2002. I spent 36 years as a teacher and school administrator, and as an Assistant Lecturer at Texas A&M University. I was baptized as an infant, and was raised with Christian values and principles, for which I am deeply grateful. These principles have guided me on my life's journey, with all the joys and sorrows life deals us. I became a Presbyterian in the early 1980's. Choosing to be an elder allows me to reach out to serve other as well as my church. As a Christian, I feel it is my responsibility to be a servant of God. I look forward to working with other session members to enhance Christ's mission and to further give back in our church family, as well as the community

## ERNIE WRIGHT



I have been a member of our church since 1982. In 2019, I retired from a long time career in the financial services industry. My wife, Marilyn, and I are blessed with nine (soon to be 10) grandchildren who are our joy. As a member, it is important to me to use my talents, not only to serve the church, but my church family and the community. I draw my strength and comfort from my belief in Jesus Christ. My church family has been beside me in good and difficult times. It is my desire to give back to my church as serving as an elder.

## ORDINATION QUESTIONS FOR OFFICE OF ELDER

*Book of Order W-4.4003*

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?
- c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?
- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?
- e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?
- f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- i. Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?