

First Presbyterian Church



THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent

December 16, 2018

10:45 a.m.

525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248

www.firstchurchwichita.org

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3rd Sunday of Advent

10:45 a.m.

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* J. S. Bach

Processional Khyah Van Es & Katelyn Young

First Reading *Messiah* G. F. Handel

Comfort Ye (recitative) Isaiah 40:1-5

Every Valley Shall Be Exalted (aria) Asael Gonzalez

And the Glory of the Lord (chorus) Asael Gonzalez

Chancel Choir

Greetings and Call to Worship

*Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* No. 8

Lighting of the Advent Candles Farmer Family

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming. As we wait for the Second Coming of Christ, patience is called for if we are not to become discouraged or easily distracted from the ways of the world and the busyness of the season. As the world gets prepared for Santa Claus, may we get prepared for your Second Coming. Let us not forget that patience is still a much-needed virtue in sorting through what is truly important, so as not to fret over the small stuff. Just as You have patience with us help us to have patience with each other.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

*Song of Thanksgiving

Gloria Patri

No. 579



Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here! **Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from an usher. Transistor hearing aids are also available for your use.** Please ask any usher for one and feel free to sit wherever you wish in the Sanctuary while using one.

All persons are encouraged to sign the Ritual of Friendship Pads as they are passed to you in the pews. Please include your address, email address, and telephone number. **Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning.**

Children's Information—Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. We offer children's worship bags with various quiet activities in cloth bags located just outside the Sanctuary doors. But if you feel that your child is having a difficult time sitting through church, you are welcome to worship in *The Well*. Remember, quiet play in *The Well* is appropriate so as not to disturb others who are trying to worship. Also, the McComb room is available as a Cry room. And, finally, we encourage you to consider the Nursery, which is located in the South end of the Case Building, where we have trained Staff to look after and engage your child from Birth to Kindergarten. If we need to contact you during worship, just give us your cell number and we will text you. You and your child's (spiritual, emotional, and social) needs are important to us. (Liz Norris—Director of Children's Ministry)

A quick reminder: Under the Child Protection Policy **children are not allowed to leave the Sanctuary or *The Well* without an adult escort.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sympathy-The white rose this morning on the baptismal font is in memory of Margaret "Pat" Carnahan. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers. Also, we extend our sympathies to Dick Wieland and family as they grieve the recent loss of his mother Virginia. Also, please pray for Stacey Rucker and family as they grieve the loss of her mother, Linda Stebbins. We also extend our sympathies to Herb Bevan and family over the loss of his brother James Bevan.

Praying for the Church Family—As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Charles Hoke, J.D. Page, Sylvia Landers, Mike and Kristin Caradine and Nancy and Steve Perry.

If you need a Stephen Minister, or would like more information about the Stephen Ministry, please contact Dr. Brent Johnston at 263-0248 or Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.

Activities & Announcements

***The Well* Great Coffee Sale**

Need stocking stuffers or coffee for your holiday entertaining? Stop by *The Well* any Sunday this month to get select coffee for just \$5 per pound. We also have our ceramic cups for just \$2 each. Drop by and stock up now!



Friendly reminder from the Finance Committee

Year-end gifts MUST be in the office before the end of the day on December 31, 2018. Office hours for the church are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday except Christmas Day. This DOES include Monday, December 31.

We are behind on our goal for next year's pledges, so if you have not turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible.

Likewise, if you still owe money on your pledge for 2018, we would appreciate it if you would complete your pledge contribution before December 31. Thank you.

Journeys Class for January

“THE END OF THE AGE: Apocalypse, Tribulation, Revelation, and Hope”

How should we as Christians view the end of time? Is it a time for fear or hope? What does Jesus have to say? What about Biblical scholars and TV evangelists? We will look at the Book of Revelation, the Gospels, the Old Testament, and other sources as we consider the Last Days. So, if you want to know more about the Apocalypse, the Millennium, the Rapture, and other topics, join us beginning January 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the West Dining Room. Jeff Van Sickle will lead the group in a provocative journey through the end times. No reading required; come join us!

Recessional
*Postlude

Savior of the Nations, Come

Paul Manz

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

Madonna Prints on Exhibit in *The Gallery*

The current exhibit in *The Gallery* includes the Archives Collection of Madonna prints. The subject of Mother and Child has been a popular one for 17 centuries. Please stop by and look at the prints on display. This annual display is a Christmas greeting from the Archives Staff.



Worship Leaders

Senior Pastor
Parish Associate
Director of Music
String Quartet
Organist

Cindy Watson, SheauKang Hew, Danny Ibarra, Susan Mayo

Brent O. Johnston
Judy Connors
Steve Bixler
Mark Sweeney

December Mission Memos

JOY Offering: The perfect gift comes from above—Jesus Christ!

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift—the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we love them. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God. The Presbyterian Church (USA) gives through the Christmas JOY Offering, drawing us back to the manger and God’s perfect gift to us. Through this offering 50% helps students of color in Presbyterian related schools and colleges and the other 50% goes to provide assistance to current and retired church workers faced with critical financial needs. This is a mission worth joining---to help students in their time of promise and to assist church workers in their time of need. The JOY offering will be received on Sunday, December 23. If you will be away at that time, please consider putting a gift in the offering plate marked JOY Offering or leaving a check in the church office anytime between now and the end of the year.

It’s Not Too Late to Support Operation Holiday

Although the food, blankets, coats, and toys were distributed on December 13, 14, and 15 it is not too late to help with a cash gift. A check can be placed in the offering plate made out to First Presbyterian Church with the memo for Operation Holiday. Our gifts will help cover the costs of last minute expenses and make sure our neighbors have a generous Christmas Blessing.

PW BAKE SALE WAS A SUCCESS

Thanks to your participation the Bake Sale held on December 2 raised \$300 to help support the Kansas Food Bank’s week-end backpacks for hungry children. Kid friendly foods are provided that require no preparation. Kids can just “open and eat.” The foods given are designed to provide nutrition and calories for chronically hungry school children: peanut butter (12-ounce jar) a sleeve of crackers, beans and franks (pop-top can), beef jerky, boxed cereal, fruit cups (peaches, applesauce), raisins (snack-size boxes), pudding cups, juice boxes (apple, orange), milk (aseptic pack boxes that do not require refrigeration), and granola bars. No child should go to bed hungry. Thanks for your support!

Calendar

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, December 16</p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship (<i>The Well</i>) 9:30 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR) 9:30 Youth Sunday School (YL) 9:30 Blood Pressure Check (<i>The Well</i>) 10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 10:45 Worship-Sermon & Cantata Christmas Program (Sanctuary) 10:45 Refugee Worship (C201 & C204)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, December 18</p> <p>10:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs) 12:00 Staff Christmas Party (<i>The Well</i>)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, December 19</p> <p>9:00 Dorcas Circle (C105) 6:15 James Ringers (Sanctuary) 6:30 Brent's Bible Study (The Parlor) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday, December 20</p> <p>11:45 Theological Themes in Literature (RR)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, December 21</p> <p>12:00 Lectionary Bible Study (WDR)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, December 22</p> <p>11:00 Brent's Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, December 23</p> <p>9:15 Coffee Fellowship (<i>The Well</i>) 10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 10:45 Worship-Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary) 10:45 Refugee Worship (C201 & C204)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><i>Volunteers are needed to for the upcoming Epiphany Lunch to be held on January 6th. Contact Alice Price at 267-6853 if you plan to bring soup.</i></p> <p><i>For details on how you can help with cupcakes or information on activities at this event, contact Liz Norris.</i></p>
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***The Peace**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Second Readings

Haggai 2:6-7; Malachi 3:1-3

Thus Saith the Lord (recitative)
But Who May Abide the Day of His Coming (aria)
And He Shall Purify (chorus)

Terry McManis
 Terry McManis
 Chancel Choir

Homily

“The Medium of Music to Embody the Word”
 The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Third Readings:

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 40:9, 60:1-3, 9:2, 9:6

Behold! A Virgin Shall Conceive (recitative)
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (aria)
O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion (chorus)
For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth (recitative)
The People That Walked in Darkness (aria)
For Unto Us a Child is Born (chorus)

Marilyn Heffner
 Marilyn Heffner
 Chancel Choir
 Asher Isaac
 Asher Isaac
 Chancel Choir

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Gale Farmer

Call to Stewardship

Offertory

Fourth Reading:

Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)
There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Field (recitative)
Glory to God (chorus)

Luke 2:8-14
 Orchestra (Interlude)
 Gretchen Bixler
 Chancel Choir

***Doxology**

No. 592

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 31

***Charge and Benediction**

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.