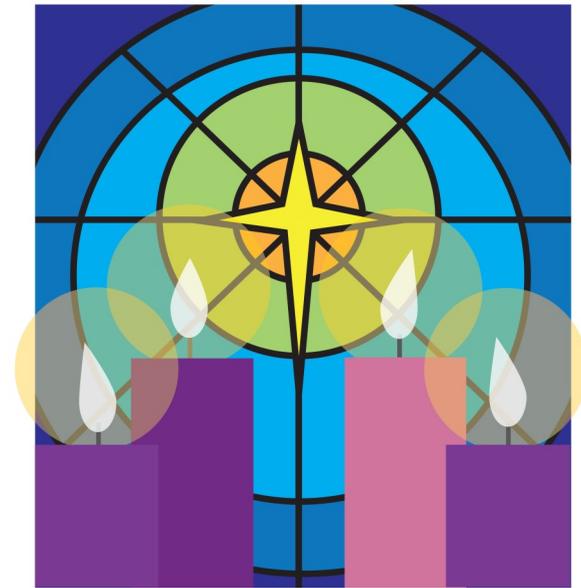


First Presbyterian Church Wichita, Kansas



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 23, 2018

10:45 a.m.

525 North Broadway
• Wichita, Kansas 67214 •

December 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

10:45 a.m.

Prelude

*Quem Pastores
Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Raymond Haan
Wilbur Held

Processional

Sierra Coldwater & Torre Rekoske

Bell Choir Introit

A Christmas Tapestry
James Ringers

arr. Dale Wood

Greetings

Leader: This is the day and the hour that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Call to Worship

Leader: We lift up our souls to you, Holy God.

People: We trust the Lord with our past, present and future.

Leader: Teach us, Lord, that we may know your ways.

People: Guide us, Holy One, that we may walk in your paths of love and mercy.

Leader: Let us worship the One who leads us in what is right.

All: Together, let us worship God!

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Rekoske Family

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Advent means coming. We remember how Mary, the mother of Jesus, broke out in praise for what God had done and will do for her and for her people. Mary's speech is known as the Magnificat which is Latin for "My soul magnifies." Indeed Mary's soul did magnify the Lord with praise for God's salvation as a reversal of fortunes for the humble and poor of the world. So with Mary we light this candle remembering the importance of praise for what God has done and will do in our lives. . . . especially this time of year as we wait for the coming of Christ.

*Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

*Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

No. 5



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.

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: Brian and Stephanie Howard and family, Margarethe VanZandt, Janean Wood, Brad and Michelle Cline and family, Judy Davis and Tom and Helen Veatch.

Flowers—The beautiful poinsettias this morning are donated by the congregation in honor of or in memory of friends and relatives. Please feel free to take the poinsettia you donated on December 30, following the service.

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

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!

Brent's Bible Study & Books of Interest

Adult Education Class

For 8 weeks beginning January 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor, we will look at Bart Ehrman's New York Times Best Selling Book, *How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee*. Bart Erhman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Quoting Erhman as to why he wrote this book, "As a historian I am no longer obsessed of how God became man, but with the historical question of how a man became God." Come to the class beginning January 9th to find out. Pastor Brent **Books can be purchased online for approximately \$15.00 dollars.**

Wednesday Night Clubs

Wednesday night clubs will resume on January 9 at 5:30 p.m. We will once again have a sign up available in *The Well* on Sundays to help contribute to our weekly meal. Thank you to all who have been a part of our Wednesday nights we are excited to see what 2019 will bring for our children and their growing faith.

REMINDER-PLEASE SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION BY DECEMBER 28.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service tomorrow night. Prelude music will begin at 6:30 p.m. The service begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

Parish Associate
Liturgist
Director of Music
Organist

Judy Conners
Brent O. Johnston
Steve Bixler
Mark Sweeney

December Mission Memos

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

The Christmas JOY Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. While we can never match God's perfect gift to us in Jesus, through the JOY Offering we can testify to who we know God to be. Our perfect gift comes from above. Our gifts reflect our generous God and support leaders in our Church and world—past, present and future. The JOY offering will be received today. 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.

Not to 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.

Next Week Is Yellow Bag Sunday!

Imagine a day and no bar soap to bathe with and no clean clothes to put on because your family did not have money to purchase laundry detergent. That's what is facing many of our refugee families. It's hard to purchase all the household and hygiene items one needs when the bread-winner of the family makes only \$9.75/hour. This is when our yellow bags become blessing bags when we bring laundry detergent, soap, toothpaste, bathroom and facial tissue (and other hygiene items) to give to our new neighbors.

Although the yellow bags will be collected this Sunday, you can bring items any time during the week and place them in the blue basket outside the church office.

Calendar

Sunday, December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 Coffee Fellowship (*The Well*)
 10:15 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 10:45 Worship-Lessons & Carols
 (Sanctuary)
 10:45 Refugee Worship (C201 &
 C204)

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Pageant and Candlelight Service

6:30 Christmas Music (Sanctuary)
 7:00 Christmas Eve Pageant and Can-
 dlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 25

Closed Christmas Day

Sunday, December 30

Yellow Bag Sunday

9:15 Coffee Fellowship (*The Well*)
 9:15 Journeys & Luccock Class (WDR)
 10:00 Choir Rehearsal (S211)
 10:45 Worship (Sanctuary)
 10:45 Refugee Worship (C201 and
 C204)

Epiphany Lunch



*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.
 For details on how you can help
 with cupcakes or information on
 activities at this event, contact
 Liz Norris.*

Second Lesson
 Anthem

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Micah 5:2-5a
 Arr. Wolgemuth

Third Lesson
 *Hymn

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Luke 1:26-38
 No. 37

Fourth Lesson
 Hymn

The First Nowell (vs.1-4)

Luke 2:1-20
 No. 56

Fifth Lesson
 *Anthem

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

Matthew 2:1-12
 Felix Mendelssohn

Sixth Lesson

Offertory Anthem

Some Children See Him
 (Gretchen Bixler, Soprano: Steve Bixler, Guitar)

John 1:14

Alfred Burt

Living Out the Biblical Story

Homily

"The God Who Sleeps Over"
 Pastor Judy Conners

Matthew 1:18-23

Closing Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

No. 31

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Choral Response

Recessional

*Postlude

Joy to the World

Wilbur Held

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)