

# First Presbyterian Church



**December 13, 2020**  
**9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Streaming**

**525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248**  
**[www.firstchurchwichita.org](http://www.firstchurchwichita.org)**

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**December 13, 2020**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 a.m.**

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Prelude

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

David Cherwien

Greetings

Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, "Rejoice." Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

**People: Let us worship God.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Judy & Phil Michel

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.

*Light the third purple candle.*

Let us pray: O God of Advent, give us patience this time of year when it seems that we have too much to do to get ready for Christmas. Help us to sort out the truly important from the trivial from the perspective of eternity. Give us grace and permission to drop old traditions to start new ones if they connect us more deeply with You and the Good News. **Amen.**

\*Hymn

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (Vs. 1, 2, 3)

No. 16

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

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.

**People: And also with you.**

Kids Connection (pre-recorded)

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Anthem

*Magnificat*

by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Second Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon

*"A Great Reversal Is Coming"*

Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Affirmation of Faith - Excerpt from *Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male, and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Call to Stewardship

Offertory                      *O Come All Ye Faithful*                      arr. Mark Hayes  
                                         Jesse Warkentin, Piano

\*Doxology                      *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*                      No. 592

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn                      *Angels, From the Realms of Glory* (Vs. 1, 2, 4)                      No. 22

\*Charge and Benediction

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Choral Response

\*Postlude                      *Here We Come A-Caroling*                      Douglas Wagner

\*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

### **Worship Leaders**

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston
Liturgist	Dave Fulton
Director of Music	Steve Bixler
Organist	Mark Sweeney

### **Production Crew**

Dave Muehl, Sound; Sailor Sulier, Computer Graphics;  
Bob Moler, Camera Operator.

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## Upcoming Classes & Events

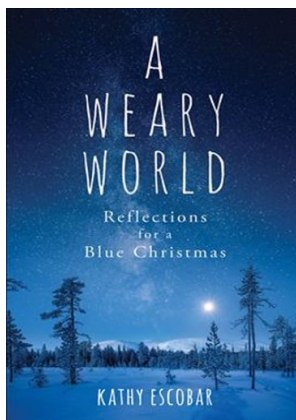
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### Wednesday Night Advent Class

#### *A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas* by Kathy Escobar

For three Wednesday nights in December from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., I will be teaching a class on a book of devotions by Kathy Escobar.

The main purpose of the book is to help people cope with the Christmas Blues that affect those who have experienced a profound loss and find it hard to get in the celebratory mood of Christmas. And as I think about all the loss so many Americans have experienced on account of this virus—loss of health, loss of life, loss of job, loss of physical contact, loss of social interactions, I think this is a timely study. In many ways Escobar's devotions take the form of lament. They allow us to bring our complaint to God, knowing that we will be heard and comforted by the one who is our Emmanuel—God with us. **The class starts on December 2 and ends on December 16.** The class will meet via Zoom. I will send out an invitation each week and a reminder. ~Pastor Brent



### Journeys Class to meet on Sundays via Zoom at 10:45 a.m.

#### December 20 - *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Russ Davisson will provide leadership for the Journeys Class for two Sundays in Advent. On December 13<sup>th</sup> Ann Weems' poem "The Church Year" will provide the backdrop for a look at the church liturgic year beginning with the season of Advent. December 20<sup>th</sup> will be a continued look at Advent and Christmas with selected poems from her book *Kneeling in Bethlehem* as a starting point. All are welcome to join and participate in what we hope will be an expression of community.

**Please plan to join us!**

### 2021 Calendars Needed for Refugees

The Mission Commission is collecting 2021 calendars for the members of the Wichita Redeemer Congregation Church. As you receive complementary calendars that you cannot use, please bring them to the church during church office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or and place them in the basket outside the office marked "Items for Refugees" during Sunday worship service.

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## Upcoming Events & News

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### CHURCH SESSION MOTIONS APPROVED

**There will only be one Worship service each week at 9:30 a.m. both in-person and live streaming through May 2021.**

***(In order to maintain social distancing during worship, please do not sit in the pews that are roped off.)***

- The Session voted to concur with the Worship and Music Commission's decision to NOT have an in-person Christmas Eve service. The service will be pre-recorded and available for all to view from their homes.
- The Session voted to suspend all meetings and on-site activities, except for Sunday Worship and the Community Breakfast (as limited below).
  - The volunteers who make the Community Breakfast possible will be allowed to operate inside the building. The Community Breakfast guests will continue to be served outside of the building.
- Member key cards will be active only during office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. If you need access at some other time, please call or text our Facilities Manager, Roy Yarbrough at 516-4772.
- The Session has discussed the issues created by COVID19 at every meeting since March 2020. They will continue to evaluate the situation and act accordingly each month. They wish they could provide a 100% reopening date for all church activities, but that is just not possible.
- Sunday worship services continue to require the following protocols be adhered to: face masks are required, maintain social distancing, the west entrance is the only open entrance to the building, temperatures of all participants will be taken, the collection plates will NOT be passed but instead will be placed at the doors, and there will be no congregational singing during services.

### JOURNEYS CLASS TO BEGIN JANUARY 3, 2021

#### **CAN LISTENING TO VOICES OF OTHER RELIGIONS AND FAITH COMMUNITIES LEAD US TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF OUR FAITH TRADITION?**

Over 5 Sundays we will study and discuss other faiths and our own with a new lens seeking to understand other traditions and deepening our own faith traditions.

Facilitated by Pat Welker.

**ALL SESSIONS WILL BE ON ZOOM.** More information about times and how to sign



### Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here! If you recently had a change in address, e-mail, or phone number, please feel free to contact the office on Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that we may update your information.

**Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning.**

**All persons must sign in upon entry of the building at this time.**

**Children's Information**-Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. However, 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. 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.

**Sunday Kids Connection**-Kids Connection is prerecorded as part of the live stream worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. If you have questions on how to join or find the group, please call Liz at (316) 214-4318.

**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: Dylan Warner, Laci Hass & family, Alexandra & Steve Washburn, Tom & Gerry Winters, and Harriet Lewis.

## Calendar

### Sunday, December 13

- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
- 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)
- 10:45 Journey's Class (Zoom)
- 10:45 Worship & Music Committee Mtg (Zoom)

### Monday, December 14

- 4:30 Personnel Mtg (Zoom)
- 6:00 Mission Commission Mtg (Zoom)

### Tuesday, December 15

- 1:00 Staff Mtg (MS Teams)
- 2:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (MS Teams)

### Wednesday, December 16

- 6:30 Brent's Advent Book Study (Zoom)

### Sunday, December 20

- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
- 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)
- 10:30 Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 10:45 Journey's Class (Zoom)



### Kansas Leadership Classes

Through an arrangement with the Kansas Leadership Center, we will be having classes that will outline the skills needed as the church faces the challenges and opportunities for the future. Future class dates and enrollment information will be announced soon.

### 2021 Stewardship Campaign Drive

We have received \$316,701.00 in pledges so far. If you have not sent in your pledge card with the ACH debit sheet, please get that to us as soon as possible. If you need another pledge form mailed to you, please contact the office at 263-0248. The finance committee is working on the budget for 2021. Thank you.

### RAISE FUNDS FOR FPC USING AMAZON SMILE

You can also help earn money for FPC when you make purchases from Amazon. Amazon Smile is a program that donates 0.5% of each purchase to the charity of your choice. When you are ready to shop, go to <http://smile.amazon.com>, choose FPC as your charity, then shop!



AmazonSmile donates  
.05% of the profits  
automatically to the  
charity of your choice!