

First Presbyterian Church



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 20, 2020
9:30 a.m. In-Person & Live Streaming

525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248
www.firstchurchwichita.org

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

What is This Lovely Fragrance

Paul Manz

Greetings

Call to Worship

Leader: Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

People: Let us worship God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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.

Light the fourth purple candle

Let us pray: O God of Advent, we praise you for your election and exaltation of Mary to be the bearer and bringer of Good News for the poor and humble of the world. May we follow the example of Mary in being the bearer and bringer of Good News. Help us to remember the poor this time of year so we may use our riches to enrich their lives. In this way may rich and poor have a merry Christmas because Christ has been born and born again in our hearts. **Amen.**

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Vs. 1-3)

No. 31

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

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Anthem

Personent Hodie

arr. Lara Hoggard

Second Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

"The Lord is with You"

Pastor Dave Fulton

Affirmation of Faith - Apostles Creed

Leader: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say:

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Call to Stewardship

Offertory *What is This Lovely Fragrance* Healy Willan
 Gretchen Bixler, Soprano; Asael Gonzalez, Tenor

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

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Vs. 1-3) No. 23

*Charge and Benediction

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Choral Response

*Postlude *Noel des Ausels* Raymond Haan

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

Worship Leaders

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Guest Pastor | Dave Fulton |
| Director of Music | Steve Bixler |
| Organist | Mark Sweeney |

Production Crew

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

Upcoming Classes & Events

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 Advent. Ann Weems' poem "The Church Year" will provide the backdrop for a look at the church liturgical year beginning with the season of Advent. December 20th will be a 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!**

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. For questions, please call Pat at (720) 273-2124.

ALL SESSIONS WILL BE ON ZOOM.

The week before Jan. 3 an invitation to the congregation will be sent by Pastor Brent with the code to enter the Zoom meeting. Class will begin at 10:45 a.m. and conclude at 11:45. (Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31). You may enter the meeting at 10:40 and all meetings will begin right on time. We are covering 7 weeks in 5 so time is critical.

An email attachment packet of information will accompany the invitation so you may have information about the class and a syllabus. Each week you will receive a reminder link to enter the class that week.

If you feel the church office does not have the correct email for you, please email or call the office and make the correction.

Please obtain a copy of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "HOLY ENVY." Available on Amazon (e-books for about \$10.00). Please read Introduction, Chapter 1 and 2 before our first meeting.

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.

Upcoming Events & News

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE INFORMATION

In order to keep everyone safe and ensure an uninterrupted and reliable video of the service, the Christmas Eve service will be not be in-person this year. The service will be pre-recorded. It will be our traditional, meaningful service celebrating Jesus' birth. It will include a pageant and candlelight.

The service will be pre-recorded. A link to the service will be available on the FPC website, firstchurchwichita.org, on December 23. In addition, if you receive the weekly email update, a link will be sent directly to you on December 23.



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.



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. 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 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.

Sympathy

The white roses on the baptismal font this Sunday are in memory of Ella Mae Ludwick and Betty Burton Brodersen. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers as they grieve their recent loss.

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, Silvia Landers, Mike & Kristin Caradine, and Nancy & Steve Perry.

Calendar

Sunday, December 20
 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)
 10:45 Journey’s Class (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 22
 1:00 Staff Mtg (MS Teams)
 2:00 Pastoral Staff Mtg (MS Teams)

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Economy Corner Closed
 Pre-recorded Christmas Eve Pageant & Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 25
Christmas Day
 Church Office & Economy Corner Closed



Sunday, December 27
 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Streaming, & Facebook Live
 10:00 Refugee Worship (Rm 204)

2021 Stewardship Campaign Drive
 All year-end gifts MUST be in the office before the end of the day on December 31, 2020. Office hours for the church are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This DOES include Thursday, 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 2020, we would appreciate it if you would complete your pledge contribution before December 31. 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!