



# First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 3, 2017

11:00 a.m.

## First Sunday of Advent Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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### THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The mission of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ, who know God and, through love, serve the Lord and others. We will accomplish our mission by practicing radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith development, risk-taking mission, and extravagant generosity.

### PREPARATION

*(Please use the prelude as a time for reflection and preparation for worship.)*

*\*Please stand, if able. Responses are in boldface.*

#### PRELUDE

"Picardy" from *Meditations on Communion Hymns*  
(Advent hymn 347)

Leo Sowerby  
(1903-1986)

Jack Rain, Organ

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Watch! Wait! The day of God is at hand!

Like the bud on a tree, God's possibilities are about to blossom!

Stay awake! The reign of God is very near.

We are here, watching and waiting with hope. May God bring justice to all people this day. We rejoice in God as children of the Light.

**INTROIT** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Latin Prose  
Chancel Choir

Text - 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.

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI  
EMMANUEL

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE** Helen & Hank Shaw

## **PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** Susan Schlecht

Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you. We have blamed you for hiding from us, rather than admitting we have failed to see you in the thousands of ways you are revealing yourself every day. We have not called on you, and we have not listened for your call to us. Without you, we have become tiny islands of self-concern. Our links with the rest of your children are stretched and broken. O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Susan Schlecht

God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ. God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal, that we might rightfully value ourselves and all persons. Spiritual gifts are ours to claim. God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances. Friends, believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

**\*GLORIA PATRI** hymn 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# PROCLAMATION

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(Children are invited to come forward to the pulpit area for the Children's Sermon. Afterward, they may return to their parent or guardian or leave the sanctuary for Godly Play.)*

**\*HYMN 144**                      "In the Bleak Midwinter"                      CRANHAM

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Susan Schlecht

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 224)

Second Lesson: Mark 12:38-44

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 46)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**                      "A Matter of the Heart"                      Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti

**MINUTE FOR GENEROSITY**                      Michelle Carothers

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right . . . in song forevermore.

**HYMN 552**                      "Holy, Holy, Holy"                      LAND OF REST

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*(You are invited to serve your neighbor the bread saying: "The body of Christ: the bread of heaven." And for the cup: "The blood of Christ: the cup of salvation.")*

*Please partake of the elements as you receive them.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND LORD'S PRAYER

(concluding with) **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.

## RESPONSE

### PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Silent Night" from *The Many Moods of Christmas, Suite I* arr. Robert Shaw  
and Robert Russell Bennett

Chancel Choir

Text - Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright; 'round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia, Christ the Savior is born!  
--Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

### \*DOXOLOGY

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.*

## SENDING

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 150 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

DIX

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Partita on "Picardy"*

Albert Zabel

*"Toccata"*

(c. 1925)

A Prayer Minister, wearing a white stole, will be available for private and confidential prayer following the service.

## FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A digital copy of each Sunday's 11:00 a.m. order of worship and announcements can be found on our website: [www.fpc-stpete.org](http://www.fpc-stpete.org). Choose Sunday Bulletins on the left side of the web page. Also online: our **Calendar of Events** is updated as we receive information, and may be accessed from our website's **EVENTS** tab at the top of the page.

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## CHANCEL FLOWERS



The Christmas Greens in the sanctuary today were given to the glory of God and in memory of William A. Hunter III.

If you would like to memorialize or honor a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope available in the church pew. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the entire Lyle family on the death of their loved one, LeeAnn Lyle Collins in Tennessee, on November 29, 2017.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember in prayer:

LuElla Ames, Millie Bradley, Rev. Bob Burkhardt, Kat Cline, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Jim and Petra Garnett, Jacquelyn Georges, Nancy Grandoff, Martha Ann Haile, Dave Herzik, Claire Hoel, Hilman Holifield, Dwight Holshouser, Jean Howie, David and Barbara Hubbell, Barbara Isaacs, Bonnie

Jackson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Glenice Kelley, Michael Liguori, Tom Lippert, Ilda Hall Littell, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Kathie Mayhall, Lyn McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, M.D. Miller, Tommy Miller (Johnny's brother), Tamara Murphy, Col. Dick Newton, Janet Poling, Bob Reed, Joy Russak, Marge Siebert, Jane Snoke, Laura Unger, Philip Ware, Rev. Alice Winters, and Janet Ytterberg.

**Please pray for our family and friends serving overseas in the military:** Brian Herzik, USA; ADM James Loeblein, USN; CPT Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

If you know of others, please let us know. Contact **Blanche Ganey** ([bganey@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:bganey@fpc-stpete.org)).

## THE REV. DR. DAWN CONTI'S INSTALLATION SERVICE IS TODAY

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay invites you to the worship service celebrating the installation of Pastor Dawn today, at 3:30 p.m. here at the church. We are looking for a few people to donate homemade goodies for the

reception that will be held immediately following the service. Please call or e-mail Rue Ann Porter at 244-1977 or [Rueannporter@gmail.com](mailto:Rueannporter@gmail.com) to let her know you will donate baked goods.

### **MEDITATION FOR CHRISTIANS**

You are invited to experience meditation and a new small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings. Next meeting will be December 12 in the chapel from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our group leader is **Carlen Maddux**. For more information, please contact **John Sims** (867-4032, or [simsjr@eckerd.edu](mailto:simsjr@eckerd.edu)). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

### **PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE**

As you begin writing your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas tree and enclosing a donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund. The Pastor's Assistance Fund provides confidential financial support throughout the year to members of our congregation and others recommended by local social services to pay for utility bills, medical needs, shelter, and other

necessities. Each Sunday in December, members of the Mission Ministry will be available at the Christmas trees located in the back of the fellowship hall and sanctuary following the 9:00 and 11:00 services, respectively, to take your donations and hang your cards. They will also provide you with a card if you need one.

### **HONDURAS NEW HOPE CLINIC MISSION TRIP 2018**

The dates for the 2018 Mission trip are June 10-17. Informational meeting will be Sunday, December 3, at 5:00 p.m. in room N123. Come and learn more about the trip and how you can be a part of this life-changing experience. For more information, contact: **Jamie Brownlee** at [hbrownlee814@yahoo.com](mailto:hbrownlee814@yahoo.com) or **Susan Schlecht** at 727-735-5332 or [schlecht21975@gmail.com](mailto:schlecht21975@gmail.com)

### **DINING WITH DAWN**

The next scheduled "Dining with Dawn" is Thursday, December 7 in room N-123 at 6 p.m. If you signed up for this time slot please make yourself note and we will see you then..

## **HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE YOUR LOVED ONES**

Christmas is here and it is time to decorate the church. If you would like to make a donation to help decorate our church in memory of or in honor of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the green envelope in the pews and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. An insert listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in the bulletin.

### **ST. PETE FREE CLINIC**

There is never a greater need for donations of food than at the holiday season. This year has become especially important since the need is greater than ever. First Presbyterian has food collection bins in fellowship hall and the main sanctuary (under the steps to the north balcony). The St. Petersburg Free Clinic picks up the donations and distributes the food to those in need and other charitable organizations.

### **END-OF-YEAR GIVING**

During December many of us

consider steps we can take to reduce our income tax burden due by April 15 of the following year. One effective step is to increase charitable contributions before year end. If you have not yet completed your 2017 Stewardship pledge, or if you would like to contribute a designated gift to another need in the church (e.g., new chairs for the Fellowship Hall), we hope you will consider giving toward those causes before December 31. All contributions to the Lord's mission work through First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg are greatly appreciated.



# THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT FPC

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

Communion Worship	8:15 AM	Chapel
Contemporary Worship	9:00 AM	F'ship Hall
Contemporary Faith Class	9:45 AM	N-120
Faith-Filled Families Class	9:45 AM	S-100
Faith Journey Class	9:45 AM	S-202
Westminster Class	9:45 AM	N-123
FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Shores	9:45 AM	Church Bus
Children's Sunday School	10:00 AM	
Youth Sunday School	10:00 AM	Youth Cntr
FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Suncoast	10:00 AM	Church Bus
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Valet Parking	10:30 AM	
Classic Worship with Choir	11:00 AM	Sanctuary
Godly Play	11:00 AM	S-108
Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM	N-121

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Parents Morning Out	9:00 AM	Child Care
Pw Coordinating Team	9:30 AM	S-100
Stephen Minister meeting	5:00 PM	S-100
PCAT	6:00 PM	N-121
Faith & Fiction	7:30 PM	N-123

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Parents' Morning Out (PMO)	9:00 AM	Child Care
Beth Moore Bible Study	9:15 AM	Youth Cntr
Faith Dev. Bible Study	9:30 AM	N-123
Church Staff Meeting	1:30 PM	N-218

Girl Scout Troop 439 6:30 PM S-206

Beth Moore Bible Study	6:30 PM	Youth Cntr
Christian Ed Meeting	7:00 PM	N-123
Alcoholics Anonymous	7:30 PM	N-121

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Parents' Morning Out (PMO)	9:00 AM	Child Care
MOPS	9:00 AM	Youth Cntr
Children's Music with Mr. Matt	5:00 PM	Choir Room
WNL Dinner	5:30 PM	F'ship Hall
WNL Bible Study	6:00 PM	F'ship Hall
Chancel Bell Rehearsal	6:00 PM	Choir Room
Praise Band	7:00 PM	F'ship Hall
Girl Scout Troop 128	7:00 PM	S-206
Alcoholics Anonymous-Women	7:00 PM	N-121

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

Parents' Morning Out (PMO)	9:00 AM	Child Care
PW Bible Leaders	10:30 AM	S-100
Pastor's Lunch Bunch at Gigi's	12:00 PM	Off-site
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Men's Community Bible Study	6:30 PM	Youth Cntr
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PM	Choir Room
Women's Bible Study	6:55 PM	F'ship Hall

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

Men's Sunrise Bible Study	7:30 AM	N-123
Parents' Morning Out (PMO)	9:00 AM	Child Care
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## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

Kids' Fun Day	9:00 AM	F'ship Hall
New Hope Christian Fellowship	5:30 PM	Offsite
Al-Anon Family Group	7:00 PM	N-121

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 Susan Key, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Carol Riley, Children's Ministry  
 Coordinator Stacey Erlenwein-Ramírez, Director of Child Care ♦ Jessica Rentschlar, Youth Ministry  
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