



First Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

December 10, 2017

11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent Sacrament of Baptism

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

"Prelude on *Hyfrydol*" (Advent hymn 82, Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)

(b. 1938)

Jack Rain, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The day of God is coming; lift up your voices, cry out with the strength God provides.

We await God's coming day with anticipation. We seek the peace and patience God provides.

Comfort, comfort my people, says our God. Speak tenderly to my suffering people.

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.*

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 129**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

ES IST EIN' ROS'

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Fran Sims

(pew Bible, *Old Testament*, page 816)

Second Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti

(pew Bible, *New Testament*, page 3)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Welcome To The Family!”

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Elder/Congregation

God, our creator . . . faith and purpose.

God, who calls us from death to life: We give ourselves to you and with the Church through all the ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BAPTISM

WELCOME

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RESPONSE

PRESENTING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Arise now, Daughter” from *Christmas Oratorio* Camille Saint-Saëns

Chancel Choir (1835-1921)

Text - Arise now, Daughter of Zion! Alleluia. Praise God, praise God in the night! Praise him in the first watches of the nighttime. Alleluia. That Zion’s true glory might be manifested, that her savior might rise and shine before the nations. Alleluia. --Lamentations 2:19; Isaiah 62:1

***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 136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

GO TELL IT

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Fantasy on *Hyfrydol*"

Mark Thallander
(b. 1950)

The congregation is invited to come forward and stand by the organ console.
The minister is available at the door as you leave.

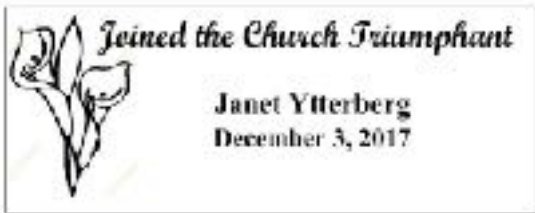
A Prayer Minister, wearing a white stole, will be available for private and confidential prayer following the service.

FPC NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. 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.

DECEMBER PRAYER

Eternal, everlasting Lord, who are mortals that you are mindful of us? Yet in never ending, immeasurable love, you entered into the human condition as helpless infant of humble birth and through the witness of your Son's earthly life, set humankind and your world on the path of redemption. This Advent season, as we wait with anticipation to celebrate His birth and look forward to the promised second coming, keep us alert. Awaken our senses, our minds, and our hearts to the in-breaking of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Help us to notice the miracles of the ordinary. Help us to tune in to your love song that serenades us in the beauty of the sunrise, the whisper of the breeze, and the laughter of children. Help us to catch glimpses of you in the eyes of a stranger, the opportunities for growth presented by obstacles, and the blessings of the interruptions in life. Thank you for bringing new life to every moment of every day. Fill our days of waiting with the wonder of your presence. Come Lord Jesus, Come!



If you would like to honor or memorialize 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.



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, and Rev. Alice Winters and Dennis Zuercher.

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).

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). 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.

DINING WITH DAWN

The next scheduled "Dining with Dawn" is Thursday, December 14 in room N-123 at 6 p.m. If you signed up for this time slot, please

make yourself a 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.

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Many of you contribute with checks and have opted out of envelopes. This is another savings for the church. However, the 2018 giving envelopes are in the sanctuary to be retrieved. Please look for your envelopes today.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AT FPC

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

FPC Bus Transportation from Presbyterian Towers 10:15 AM Church Bus

FPC Bus Transportation from Westminster Palms 10:30 AM Church Bus

Valet Parking 10:30 AM

Classic Worship with Choir 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Godly Play 11:00 AM S-108

Many Moods Concert 4:00 PM Sanctuary

Polar Express 6:00 PM F'ship Hall

Alcoholics Anonymous 8:00 PM N-121

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Parents Morning Out (PMO) 9:00 AM Child Care

Pw Circle 3 10:00 AM Off-site

PW Circle 6 10:00 AM S-100

Board of Deacons 6:00 PM S-100

Mission Ministries 6:30 PM N-121

Fellowship Ministries 7:00 PM N-120

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

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 Luncheon 1:00 PM Off-site

PW Circle 4 1:30 PM Off-site

Girl Scout Troop 439 6:30 PM S-206

Beth Moore Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Cntr

Finance Committee 6:30 PM N-218

Meditation for Christians 7:00 PM Chapel

Property Committee 7:00 PM N-123

Alcoholics Anonymous 7:30 PM N-121

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Parents' Morning Out (PMO) 9:00 AM Child Care

PW Circle 12 11:30 AM Off-site

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

Worship & Music meeting 7:15 PM N-218

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Parents' Morning Out (PMO) 9:00 AM Child Care

Pastor's Lunch Bunch at Gigi's 12:00 PM Off-site

Dining with Dawn 6:00 PM N-123

Men's Community Bible Study 6:30 PM Youth Cntr

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Choir Room

BSF Women's Bible Study 6:55 PM F'ship Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Men's Sunrise Bible Study 7:30 AM N-123

Parents' Morning Out (PMO) 9:00 AM Child Care

Girl Scout Troop 570 6:30 PM S-206

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Kids' Night Out 5:00 AM F'ship Hall

New Hope Christian Fellowship 5:30 PM Offsite

Al-Anon Family Group 7:00 PM N-121

Rev. Dr. Dawn Conti, Pastor ♦ Matt Caine, Director of Music ♦ Jack Rain, Organist

Susan Key, Parish Associate ♦ Ashley Davis, Day School Director ♦ Carol Riley, Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Stacey Ramirez, Director of Child Care ♦ Jessica Rentschlar, Youth Ministry Coordinator
 ♦ Carole Igney, Bookkeeper ♦ Johnny Miller, Building & Grounds Superintendent ♦ Bob Langley, Custodian ♦ Blanche Ganey, Office Manager

701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701 ♦ Church Office: (727) 822-2031 ♦ Fax: (727) 894-2971

Day School: (727) 894-5889 ♦ Web site: www.fpc-stpete.org ♦ E-mail: office@fpc-stpete.org