

*The First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin
Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018
10:30 a.m.*

Enter the church in silence. Through silence speak to God and let God speak to you.

PREPARATION: *The following are the lectionary scriptures for this morning: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Pew Bible pages 558-559) Surely God is my salvation; trust in the Lord and give thanks. Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Pew Bible page 767) Rejoice and sing. God will redeem you and restore your fortunes. Philippians 4:4-7 (Pew Bible page 955) Rejoice in the Lord, who is near; pray and receive God's peace. Luke 3:7-18 (Pew Bible page 834) John warns of God's wrath and proclaims the good news. Today's service is based on Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible page 831)*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY: *Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word. Amen.*

THE GATHERING

BELL PEAL

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
GREETING**

PRELUDE "Veni Emmanuel" Young

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE – Joy – Isaiah 35:10

LEADER: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy. May the light of the joyful promise of your presence, O God, make us joyful in our hope of salvation.

PEOPLE: O come, O come Emmanuel!

RESPONSE (Hymn #9) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Veni Emmanuel

ALL: O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING SENTENCES

LEADER: Sing praise to our God, who has done marvelous things!

PEOPLE: Let God's saving deeds be known throughout all the earth.

LEADER: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O people of God!

PEOPLE: For great is the Holy One in our midst. Praise the Lord!

***HYMN #20** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Aberystyth

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we are told this is supposed to be a joyous time, so why do we often feel joyless? We hear the summons to rejoice, but why do we struggle to respond? Absorbed in the needs of the day, we have lost sight of you. Beaten down by cares and burdens, we neglect the means of grace through which our hearts might be lifted. We pray partly and worship half-heartedly and serve grudgingly. Sin prevails and joy eludes and we drift farther away. Gather us in. Forgive us. Restore us. Bring forth a new spirit within us, that we might discover the joy for which you created us, the deep joy made known to us in Jesus Christ. *(silent confession)*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

LEADER: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

PEOPLE: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

***GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal #579)** "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."

CHILDREN'S LESSON

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Pew Bible page 767)
The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM "People, Look East" Hopson

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38 (Pew Bible page 831)
The Gospel of the Lord!
Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

“The Visitation – Mary”

Rev. Dr. David K. Shelor

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD AND LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Come now, O Redeemer of our race”

Buxtehude

*DOXOLOGY (Hymnal #591)

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all people here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.”

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

*HYMN #15

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

Llangloffan

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

“Wachet auf”

Manz

For some, the Postlude serves as festive music to accompany their going out into the world. Others prefer to remain seated and listen. Those departing during the Postlude can help those who listen by softening their joyful greeting of others.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

NEXT SUNDAY, December 23, 2018 will be the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The lectionary scriptures will be: Micah 5:2-5 (Pew Bible pages 756-757) A ruler will come from Bethlehem; he will be the one of peace. Psalm 80:1-7 (Pew Bible pages 470-471) Give ear; O Shepherd of Israel; let your face shine and save us. Hebrews 10:5-10 (Pew Bible page 976) God does not desire burnt offerings; Christ came to do God’s will. Luke 1:39-45 (Pew Bible page 831) Mary visits Elizabeth; the child in Elizabeth’s womb leaps for joy.

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! It is good to be together as a community while we worship in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Following the service, there will be a time of light refreshments and further conversation and connection with one another in Hager Hall. The easiest way to access the hall from the sanctuary is through the doors closest to the pulpit and to the right.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER – You are invited to fill out the Friendship Register with as much information as you are comfortable in sharing. It can be found at the center end of each pew. As it is returned to the center aisle, please take time to look at the names of others with whom you are sitting. It can be a good feeling to call someone by their name, even though you are just meeting them, and it is a reminder that, this morning, we are all part of God’s community together.

HAVE CHILDREN? – A professionally staffed nursery is available for children age 3 and younger in the Nursery Room, off of the Courtyard. Coloring pages for use in worship are also available. Ask an usher about both. After the beginning of worship, children through 5th grade will be invited to attend “Sonshine Mountain,” a time of fun and faith just for them. They will be returned to meet their families in Hager Hall following worship.

NEW TO FIRST CHURCH? – Thank you for being here today! Your presence adds to this experience of worship. Please introduce yourself to the folks around you and to Pastor David. If you’d like, you are welcome to identify yourself with the “Visitor” stickers found in the Friendship Register. At the close of worship, please feel free to take a Blue Welcome Bag, which includes a small gift and further information about First Church. They can be found at the front.

LIKE TO KNOW MORE? – For more information about First Presbyterian Church, its ministry and mission, and how we can grow and learn together, please:

- See the announcements in this bulletin
- Go to the church website (www.fpcdunedin.org)
- Read the monthly newsletter, *The Voice*, found at various information tables here and on the church website.
- Find us on Facebook
- Contact the church office (727-733-2318, frontoffice@fpcdunedin.org)

THOSE WITH VISION OR HEARING IMPAIRMENTS – Large print bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers. Hearing assisted devices are also available at the sound booth.

FIRST FRIENDS PRESCHOOL OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DUNEDIN offers Christian based curriculum for ages 1-5 and the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program. Call 727-733-2111 for more information. Visit the website at www.firstfriendspreschool.net or like us on Facebook @ First Friends Preschool – Dunedin Florida.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

USHERS: John Ralph, Susanne Wilde, Barbara Hanson, Marcie Carnevale
LITURGISTS: Tina and Jamie Webb
SOUND TECHNICIANS: Dave Thomas and Jeff Cockrell

SANCTUARY FLOWERS THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

Nancy Jewitt in memory of Jack Jewitt
Lynn and Paul Burks in memory of Paul’s father, William Dewey Burks

TODAY’S OPPORTUNITIES

8:45 a.m. – Worship Café (HH)
9:00 a.m. – Children’s Sunday School (N)
9:30 a.m. – Exchange Forum (HH)
9:30 a.m. – Searcher Sunday School Class – Eric Houghton (HR)
9:30 a.m. – Foundation Sunday School Class (L)
10:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship (S)
10:50 a.m. – Children’s Sunday School (EB)
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (HH)

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Monday (17 th)	8:30 a.m.	Prayer Walkers (PL)
	6:00 p.m.	Scouts (HH)
	6:30 p.m.	Building Team (612)
	6:30 p.m.	Pack Meeting (HH)
Tuesday (18 th)	7:00 p.m.	Dialogues (MR)
	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting (MR)
	2:00 p.m.	Koinonia (L)
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting (MR)
Wednesday (19 th)	7:00 p.m.	AA (HH)
	11:00 a.m.	Senior Exercise Class (HH)
Thursday (20 th)	11:00 a.m.	OA (EHH)
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (B)
	6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (CR)
	8:00 p.m.	NA (EHH)
Friday (21 st)	6:30 p.m.	Game Night (B)
	6:30 p.m.	AA (HH)
Saturday (22 nd)	5:30 p.m.	Scout Babysitting (B)
	7:00 p.m.	AA (HH)

Legend: (B) Basement Game Room; (BC) Bell Choir EB; (C) Cinema EB; (CR) Choir Room; (EB) Ed Bldg 2nd Fl; (EHH) East Hager Hall; (FO) Front Office; (HH) Hager Hall; (HR) Highlander Room; (L) Library; (MR) Meeting Room; (N) Nursery; (PL) Parking Lot; (PS) Ed Bldg Gr Floor; (S) Sanctuary; (10) Scout Hut on Loudon; (612) Green House

Church Attendance on December 9, 2018 - Worship Café 41; Traditional 126

Is God in your will?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIAS Don't forget to sign up in Hager Hall on the bulletin board to sponsor a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary for the services on December 23 and Christmas Eve. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. Your "sponsored" plant may be taken home following the 11:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

CHANGED MEETING PLACE FOR DIALOGUES: A SMALL GROUP ENCOUNTER

December 17 - Dialogues will meet in the Meeting Room instead of the Church Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. for a soup and salad supper. The book discussion of *Earth-Honoring Faith* will follow at 7:00 p.m. led by Rev. Nedday Astudillo, who will be joining us along with her husband and son. Please join us to welcome Dr. Astudillo, who has recently joined the Presbytery of Tampa Bay as an Eco-theologian and Presbyterian pastor working as GreenFaith Circle organizer in the state of Florida. Copies of *Earth-honoring Faith* may be obtained in the church library. For questions or further information, contact Brenda Thomas, drbwt1969@gmail.com.

THE DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR is hosted by the Video Club and Koinonia. Please join us after worship at 11:30 a.m. in Hager Hall. Enjoy some light refreshment while visiting with fellow worshippers and welcoming our guests. We thank the Video Club and Koinonia for their service and contribution to our church.

KOINONIA Tuesday, December 18 in the Library at 2:00 p.m. This month's selection is *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee and will be presented via a panel of folks who are enthusiastic about the book. It is the multi-generational story of a Korean family who immigrates to Japan. There will be the usual bad jokes, refreshments and door prizes. Come celebrate the holidays with fellow readers. Bring family, friends and neighbors. Tuesday at Two.

PRESBYTERY INVITATION TO AN ORDINATION SERVICE – Katherine "Kitti" Wiseman Ginn (Resident Chaplain/Tampa General Hospital) Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. – St. Andrews Presbyterian Church 705 Michigan Ave, Dunedin. A reception follows the worship service.

THE CHRISMON TREE IN OUR SANCTUARY The word "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram" and has been adopted to refer to special Christmas tree ornaments. Can you find a crown or butterfly symbol on the tree? These are just two of the symbols used by early Christians to identify themselves, or a meeting place, to one another. The crown is a symbol of victory and sovereignty, the butterfly represents our resurrection and eternal life. A Chrismon Tree bears symbols conveying the life of Christ and the meaning of Christmas through commonly found items and easily understood symbols (cross, star, fish, circle, heart, butterfly ...).

THE VIDEO CLUB will not meet this week. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Monday, December 24, 2018

5:00 p.m. – Family Service
(Our young ones are encouraged to arrive at 4:30 p.m.
to participate in the Nativity.)

8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
Traditional Candlelight/Communion services

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS Due to the holidays the worship bulletins for Sundays, December 23 and 30 must be run next week. The deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday, December 19 at noon.

PRAYER REQUESTS - the names of people who have requested prayer are listed in italics the first week of their request and any time there are changes in their condition or place of recuperation. (Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern.)

- *Family and friends of Ethel (Cricket) Smith who died December 10*
- *Margie Skinner at home*

For continued healing: Joyce Swan, Marion Guthrie, Rev. Buddy Doyle, Sally King, Liz Bailey, Richard Garlick, Matthew Lanier, John Willmarth, Debby Womack, Herbert Russcol