

*The First Presbyterian Church of Dunedin
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 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: 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.*

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 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" **Manz**

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE – John 3:16

LEADER: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

We light this candle as a symbol of God's Love. May the Word sent from God show us the way to salvation.

PEOPLE: O come, O come Emmanuel!

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

ALL: O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

OPENING SENTENCES

LEADER: Hear us, O Shepherd of your people!

PEOPLE: Restore us, O God of hosts!

LEADER: Shine the light of your presence upon us.

PEOPLE: Then we shall be saved.

***HYMN #600**

"Song of Mary"

Morning Song

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O holy God of promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy. You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways that seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our hearts and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin – the One who has come to set us all free. (*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

Micah 5:2-5 (Pew Bible pages 756-757)

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

"My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"

Praetorius

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-45 (Pew Bible page 831)

The Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

"The Visitation – Mary and Elizabeth"

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

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”

arr. Manz

***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 #48**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Es ist ein' Ros'

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!”

arr. Haan

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 30, 2018 will be the First Sunday after Christmas. The lectionary scriptures will be: Psalm 148 (Pew Bible page 508) Praise the Lord, all creation! God is exalted in heaven and earth. 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (Pew Bible pages 214-215) Ministering before the Lord, Samuel grows in stature and favor. Colossians 3:12-17 (Pew Bible page 958) As God's chosen ones, clothe yourselves in love; be thankful. Luke 2:41-52 (Pew Bible pages 833-834) Three days after Passover, young Jesus is found in his Father's house.

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 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: Susanne Wilde, Katherine Calhoun, Cheryl Small, Nell Thomas
LITURGISTS: Welch and Carole Anne Agnew
SOUND TECHNICIANS: Dave Thomas and Jeff Cockrell

POINESTTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

Welch and Carole Anne Agnew, Stephen L. Allen, Allen and Betty Arnold, Paul and Lynn Burks, Katherine Calhoun, Marian Davis, Amanda Fleming, Richard and Dana Garlick, Addie Lou Gilchrist, Eric and Rebecca Houghton, Nancy Klopp and family, Don and Betsi Knapp, Jennette Marsden, Les and Joyce Marsden, Joe and Lois Matocha, Bubba and Joan Roberson, Richard Simon, Joan and Bill Trefts, Jamie and Tina Webb, Susanne Wilde, Marion Yongue

TODAY’S OPPORTUNITIES

8:45 a.m. – Worship Café (HH)
9:00 a.m. – Children’s Sunday School (N)
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 (B)
11:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hour (HH)

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Monday (24 th)	5:00 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Service (S)
	8:00 p.m.	Candlelight/Communion Service (S)
	11:00 p.m.	Candlelight/Communion Service (S)
Tuesday (25 th)	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
	7:00 p.m.	AA (EHH)
Wednesday (26 th)	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Thursday (27 th)	11:00 a.m.	OA (EHH)
	8:00 p.m.	NA (EHH)
Friday (28 th)	6:30 p.m.	AA (EHH)
Saturday (29 th)	7:00 p.m.	AA (EHH)

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

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.)

- *Margie Skinner at Mease Continuing Care*
- *Al Schlorholtz at Mease Continuing Care*
- *Marion Guthrie at Mease Dunedin*
- *Family and friends of Doug Leary, member of Bay Voices, who died December 18*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY December 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY – JANUARY 13 The commitments we make are important, whether those commitments are to spouses, children, family or friends. The commitment we share together as members of the First Presbyterian Church community are important, too. It is a shared commitment to fellowship, ministry and mission and to journey together as followers of Jesus. On Sunday, January 13, we will be welcoming those coming to make that commitment with us for the first time as new members. If you would like to make a commitment as a member of our church community, or would like to talk with our pastor to learn more about what that means, please contact the church office (727-733-2318, frontoffice@fpcdunedin.org) . We would LOVE to welcome you!

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

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.

Church Attendance on December 16, 2018 – Worship Café 40; Traditional 128

Is God in your will?