



Fort Worth  
Presbyterian  
Church

*Welcome to our visitors on Facebook Live. We're glad you've joined us to worship today. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a visitor form or to submit a prayer request or praise.*

*May God's blessings in Christ be with you.*

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The whole story of the human race is God's way of staging the outpouring of his redemptive love in Christ. He is in earnest with you. Be in earnest with him!

- Kent Hughes

Who among us will celebrate Christmas right? Those who finally lay down all their power, honor, and prestige, all their vanity, pride, and self-will at the manger, those who stand by the lowly and let God alone be exalted, those who see in the child in the manger the glory of God precisely in this lowliness.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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# Worship

—*December 20, 2020*—

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## Preparation for Worship

## The Greeting

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## † The Call to Worship

*God calls His people to worship*

LUKE 2:14-15; ISAIAH 9:6

Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.

**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Glory to God in the highest!

**And on earth peace, good will toward men!**

† Hymn of Praise

*We praise our glorious King*

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Traditional French carol

† Invocation

*We seek the Lord's presence among us*

† Doxology

*We respond in praise*

*ADESTE FIDELES*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!

## Advent Reading

*1 Peter 1:8-9; Jude 1:24*

## Welcome

## Confession of Sin

*We turn from our sin*

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Silent Confession

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*The promise of good news*

TITUS 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

## † Hymn of Response

*We adore our Saviour*

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sing we the song of Emmanuel,  
this the Christ who was long foretold.

Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem,  
promise of dawn now our eyes behold.

God Most High in a manger laid.  
Lift your voices and now proclaim:  
Great and glorious love has come to us!  
Join now with the hosts of heaven!

Come we to welcome Emmanuel,  
King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless he lay the Invincible,  
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.

Oh, what wisdom to save us all.  
Shepherds, sages, before him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility.  
Come on bended knee adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel,  
joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads for your King has come.  
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.

Glory shining for all to see.  
Hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way, he will have the praise,  
tell the world his name is Jesus.

By Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, Stuart Townend

## Pastoral Prayer

*John Weiser, Ruling Elder (8:30)*

*Steve Fults, Ruling Elder (10:30)*

## The Reading of the Word

Isaiah 49:1-7, 13-18, 22-50:3

[1] Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. [2] He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. [3] And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” [4] But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.”

[5] And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him— for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— [6] he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

[7] Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

[13] Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

[14] But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”

[15] “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. [16] Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. [17] Your builders make haste; your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out from you. [18] Lift up your eyes around and see; they all gather, they come to you. As I live, declares the LORD, you shall put them all on as an ornament; you shall bind them on as a bride does.

[22] Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders. [23] Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame.”

[24] Can the prey be taken from the mighty, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? [25] For thus says the LORD: “Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for I will contend with those who contend with you, and I will save your children. [26] I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh, and they shall be drunk with their own blood as with wine. Then all flesh shall know that I am the LORD your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Isaiah 50:1–3

[1] Thus says the LORD: “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce, with which I sent her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was sent away. [2] Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst. [3] I clothe the heavens with blackness and make sackcloth their covering.” (ESV)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

# The Preaching of the Word

*Pastor Ryan Moore*

CONTENTMENT: A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

## Communion

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

### The Encouragement

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution

### The Confession

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(Clear cups are wine and purple cups are grape juice)*

## Understanding Holy Communion

“For Christ our passover has also been sacrificed for us, therefore, let us celebrate the feast.” 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Because we believe the Table belongs to the Lord, it is vital that you come this morning on His terms:

1. You must be in communion with Jesus Christ by faith and repentance, trusting Him alone for your salvation.  
– *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
2. You must be in communion with your brothers and sisters in Christ. – *Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-12*
3. You must be in communion with the church (any Bible-believing church) as a baptized member in good standing.  
– *Matthew 18:15-18; Hebrews 13:17*
4. Because we seriously heed Scripture's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29, We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of saving faith to complete the Communicants Class materials available at the book table, arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become regular “communicants” at the Lord’s Table.

*"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."*

*– 1 Corinthians 11:28-29*

## Prayers for Those Not Communing

**For those searching for truth:** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

**For those who desire to profess faith in Christ:** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

**A prayer for those struggling against sin:** Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

**A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:** Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

† Closing Hymn

*We respond in faith and song*

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Words by Isaac Watts; Music by George Frideric Handel

## The Sending

*The people of God are sent into the world*

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed,  
for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will  
help you, I will uphold you with my righteous  
right hand.

*Isaiah 41:10*

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## The Blessing

*God blesses his people as they go*

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to  
you, and therefore he exalts himself to show  
mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of  
justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.

*Isaiah 30:18*

## Announcements

### Deacon of the Day

Randy Shannon

## Information & Events

**Offering** To make a contribution [CLICK HERE](#) or you may text to give to 817-934-6447.

**Benevolence Offering TODAY** for widows & families in need in our congregation. To make an online contribution [CLICK HERE](#) and *in the Private Message box please enter "Benevolence."* Or make checks payable to FWPC. Please list "Benevolence" on the memo line.

**Find Refreshment in a Zoom Prayer meeting:** Monday@ 7:30am, Thursday@ Noon. Join the church for 30 minutes of prayer Monday or Thursday as we pray for issues facing our church and nation. The link was emailed this past Friday.

**Women's Bible Study:** Join us to study Kathleen Nielson's Psalms: Songs Along the Way this spring (Jan. 12-Apr. 14) and observe the ways of God, words and prayer. We will have small groups and lectures on Wednesday mornings and a small group in the evening at church. Zoom discussion groups will be available on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. We will adapt church small groups as needed. If none of these groups work for you, we encourage you to create your own small group and join in Nielson's study of Psalms with us. Spring registration is available now at [FortWorthPCA.org](http://FortWorthPCA.org).



# CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

**4 PM**

(MASK REQUIRED)

**5:30 PM**

(MASK OPTIONAL  
AFTER SEATED)



Fort Worth Presbyterian Church

# Financial Report

Fiscal year June 2020-May 2021

	<u>June-November</u>
General Fund Giving YTD	593,009
Other Income	2,093
General Fund Expenses YTD	646,301

Our Fiscal Year began June 1, 2020. Through the first four months of the new fiscal year, we have a loss of -\$51,198 compared to last year's loss of -74,989. We have continued to use some of the Covid-19 Relief funds for needs with a balance remaining of \$26,559. As of November 30, we have \$144,491 cash on hand after liabilities. Thank you for your faithful giving in these difficult times.

Part of your faithful giving supports Bradford Green, Campus Minister at TCU for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF).

- ❖ **NEW!** Mobile Giving: Just Text the amount you want to give to **817-934-6447**. The first time will take you through the setup after that just text the amount you would like to give.
- ❖ If you would like to give online you can sign up for ACH/Credit/Debit giving from our home page [fortworthpca.org](http://fortworthpca.org)
- ❖ If you would like to contribute stocks or securities from a brokerage account you can contact Steve Fults 817-731-3300 and he can give you the instructions for these types of gifts.
- ❖ If you would like to include FWPC in your estate planning you can contact Steve Fults with any questions you may have.

*Contributions must be received or postmarked by  
12/31/20 to be credited in 2020.*

***Mailing address:  
FWPCA P.O. Box 16307  
Fort Worth, TX 76162***

**Fort Worth Presbyterian Church**  
**“Nurturing a joy for loving God and loving people**  
**by proclaiming, believing and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ”**

**SESSION (ELDERS)**

Ben Dyess	994-2699	Jack Norris	821-0918
Steve Fults	773-8772	Jacob Tilton	733-7399
Scott Hames	<i>ON SABBATICAL</i>	Scott Wade	<i>ON SABBATICAL</i>
Darwin Jordan	789-8008	John Weiser	228-4193
Ryan Moore	423-667-3044		

**DEACONS**

Pete Cansick	610-451-9965	David Steed	680-1398
Chris Jordan	271-0150	Johnny Tassin	281-684-0053
Randy Shannon	807-5660	Andy Warren	614-3243
Daniel Sneed	343-1589	David Welch	<i>ON SABBATICAL</i>
Dowell Stackpole	370-7431		

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY CO-CHAIR**

Jill Davis, 817-896-7113  
[jill@gallidavis.com](mailto:jill@gallidavis.com)

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Jacob Tilton 731-3300 x208  
[jacob@fortworthpca.org](mailto:jacob@fortworthpca.org)

**MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

Steve Fults 731-3300 x202  
[steve@fortworthpca.org](mailto:steve@fortworthpca.org)

**SENIOR PASTOR**

Darwin Jordan 731-3300 x205  
[darwinjordan7007@hotmail.com](mailto:darwinjordan7007@hotmail.com)

**MEN’S MINISTRY**

Jedediah Bechard 996-7385  
[jedediahb@gmail.com](mailto:jedediahb@gmail.com)

**WOMEN’S MINISTRY CO-CHAIR**

Haddon Ryan, 817-458-1874  
[haddon.ryan12@gmail.com](mailto:haddon.ryan12@gmail.com)

**PASTOR TO YOUTH**

Phillip Maxwell 720-256-1728  
[phillip@fortworthpca.org](mailto:phillip@fortworthpca.org)

**KIDS HOPE DIRECTOR**

Barbara Rozanski 410-296-9453  
[kidshope@fortworthpca.org](mailto:kidshope@fortworthpca.org)

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Ryan Moore 731-3300 x204  
[ryan@fortworthpca.org](mailto:ryan@fortworthpca.org)

**CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES**

Rebecca York 214-681-2496  
[rebecca@fortworthpca.org](mailto:rebecca@fortworthpca.org)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Cynthia E. Scott 731-3300  
[cynthia@fortworthpca.org](mailto:cynthia@fortworthpca.org)

**Prayer /Notification of Requests:** [prayer@fortworthpca.org](mailto:prayer@fortworthpca.org)

To receive church event emails, sign up on our website’s homepage.

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY**

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

6251 Oakmont Trail, Fort Worth TX 76132 (physical address)

P.O. Box 16307, Fort Worth TX 76162 (mailing address)

Email – [fwpca@fortworthpca.org](mailto:fwpca@fortworthpca.org)

817-731-3300 (phone) 817-294-5687 (fax)

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