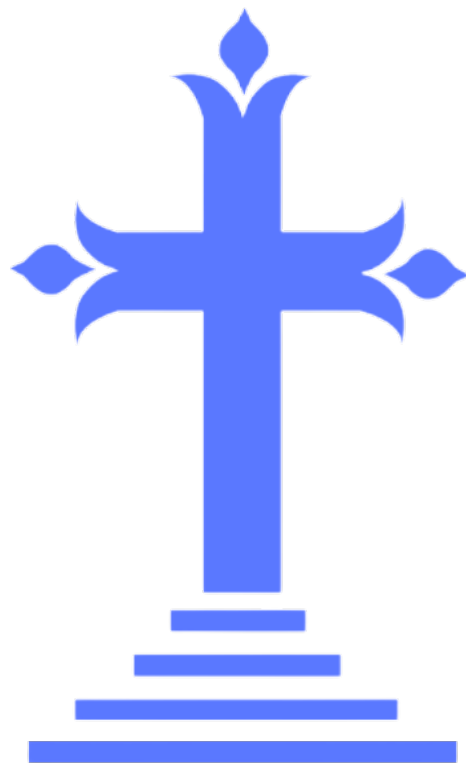


Fort Worth Presbyterian Church



December 17, 2023

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers a welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



To learn more about us, use this QR code



If you are visiting, please register here.

The front of the bulletin and the color of the minister's stole is currently blue as this is the time in the Christian Year known as Advent. Blue represents the sky before dawn, signaling the time in which we live "between" - between the first and second coming of Christ, the Light of the world.

The problem of "weak hands...feeble knees" has its antidote in the coming of God. God is announced, made visible, and will come to save. Isaiah voices an active, insurgent, powerful God who comes with great intention. God now comes into a situation of disability, despair, and drought, in order to work His redemption.

Walter Brueggemann

Please turn off or silence all communication devices.

For Free Wi-Fi, go to Settings on your device and select network 'FWPCA'

Courtesy walker and wheelchair are available at the main entrance.

Hearing Assistive Devices (FM Receivers) are at the back sound booth.

† Congregation standing

Order of the Worship of God

— December 17, 2023 —

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The Gospel Greeting

Rev. Brandon Eggar

Pastor: Greetings, O favored ones, the Lord is with us!

People: Behold, we are the servants of the Lord; let it be to us according to His word.

† The Call to Worship

Pastor: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills and all of the nations shall flow to it.

People: And many peoples shall come up and say, "Come, let us go up to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us his ways and that we may walk in His paths."

Pastor: For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples.

People: And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Pastor: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isaiah 2:2-5

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of His train.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold Him,
pierced, and nailed Him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

Ev'ry island, sea, and mountain,
heav'n and earth, shall flee away;
all who hate Him must, confounded,
hear the trump proclaim the day:
Come to judgment! Come to judgment!
Come to judgment, come away!

Now Redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear!
All His saints, by man rejected,
now shall meet Him in the air.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen! let all adore Thee,
high on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for Thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly;
alleluia! come, Lord, come.

† Invocation

† A Psalm Reading

Psalm 96:1-6, 10-15

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.

Pastor: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all peoples!

People: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.

Pastor: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Pastor: Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity."

People: Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it.

Pastor: Let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for He comes, for He comes to judge the earth.

All: He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness. Amen.

Praise God from whom all ble - ssings
flow, praise Him all crea-tures here be -
low. Praise Him a-bove ye heav'n - ly host. Praise
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
A - men.

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Family of the Living God, let us now confess our sins together:

All: Our God, we come to You confessing that although we have begun by the Spirit and are to live and walk by the Spirit, we are quick to go back to the flesh and as a result we become conceited. We provoke one another. We envy one another and we fail to follow in the way of Jesus, our Lord. Gracious Father, forgive us for trusting in our own strength to Your dishonor, our demise, and the dehumanization of others. We pray for Your renewal in our lives and congregation. Amen.

Silent Confession

Song of Confession

COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.

O Lord of life, our only hope,

Your radiance shines on all who look to You in the dark,

Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

O joy above all other loves, in You we find more than enough,

We come as we are, O heal and restore, come light our hearts.

(repeat)

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.

Truly our hope is in You, truly our hope is in You.

CCLI Song # 7054135

Sandra McCracken

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† Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is well-pleased.

1 John 1:5,9

† The Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

At this time, please greet those around you with the peace of Christ.

† Song of Renewal

COME, BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity

In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin

See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory

See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

CCLI Song # 7026028 / Matt Boswell | Matt Papa | Michael Bleecker

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COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Lighting of the Advent

*The Bethlehem Candle
Psalm 97, James 5:7-10
The Jordan Family*

Reader: We light the third candle of Advent, the Shepherds' Candle, to remind us that the announcement of Christ's birth was made to humble men, for God came and called the meek of the earth.

All: Thanks be to God

Prayer of Intercession

Scott Wade

(followed by a time of silent prayer)

Common Prayer

Elder: Let us now join our voices praying:

All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy come to help and deliver us through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory. Amen.

Morning Offering & KIWI Release

*Children Pre-K through 2nd grade can now be dismissed for KIWI
(Kids In Worship Instruction).*

Teachers will meet the children in the foyer to take them to class.

After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where they may come directly to you, or you may meet them at the back of the auditorium.

QR Code for online giving



LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

The Reading of the Word

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

[2] it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

[3] Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

[4] Say to those who have an anxious heart,

“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

[5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

[6] then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

[7] the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

[8] And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.[a]

[9] No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

A WORD OF HOPE

A Word of Hope Given in Despair

A Word of Hope Enfleshed

A Word of Hope Lived Out

Discussion Questions:

1. As you ponder your current situation, what are some areas where despair seems to be more prevalent? How does this text encourage you?
2. How has Jesus fulfilled this passage?
3. What would it look like for you to live in light of this passage? Be specific.

FEASTING AT GOD'S TABLE

The Celebration of Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Pastor: It is good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name evermore praising You and singing:



Marty Haugen (1984) ©1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

The Confession

Pastor: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

People: Hallelujah!

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of the Faith:

People: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

Pastor: And now our Holy Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we dare to call upon You, the Heavenly God, as our Father, and say:

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Yours is the Kingdom and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

Pastor: The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving. Let us now partake of the feast!

*(Clear cups are wine and purple cups are grape juice,
Gluten/Dairy free wafers are individually wrapped)*

Statements for Communion:

“The body of Christ for you.”

“The blood of Christ for you.”

“You have new life in Christ.”

“You have full forgiveness in Christ.”

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 4:1-6
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. Contact Rebecca York at rebecca@fortworthpca.org.

*"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.

Communion Song

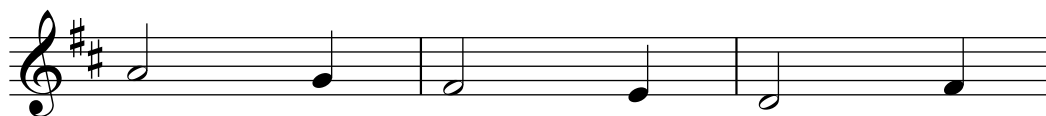
THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS



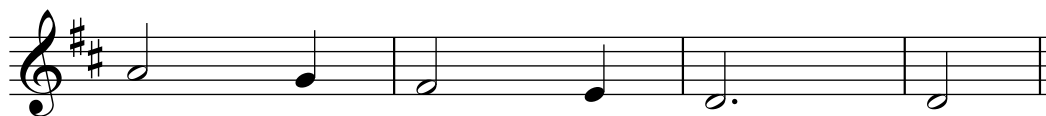
1. The_ King of love my_ shep - herd is, whose
 2. Wherestreams of li - ving wa - ter flow, my_
 3. Per - verse and foo - lish, oft I strayed, but_
 4. In_ death's dark vale I_ fear no ill, with
 5. Thou spreadst a ta - ble_ in my sight; thy_
 6. And_ so through all the_ length of days, thy_



good - ness fail - eth_ nev - ver. I noth - ing
 ran - somed soul he_ lea - deth; and where the
 yet in love he_ sought me; and on his
 thee, dear Lord, be - side me; thy rod and
 un - ction grace bes - tow - eth; and oh, what
 good - ness fail - eth_ ne - ver; Good Shep - herd,



lack if I am his, and
 ver - dant pas - tures grow, with
 shoul - der gent - ly laid, and
 staff my com - fort still, thy
 tran - sport of de - light from
 may I sing thy praise with -



he is mine for - e - ver.
 food ce - les - tial fee - deth.
 home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 cross be - fore to guide me.
 thy pure cha - lice flow - eth!
 in thy house for - e - ver.

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray:

All: Our Father, we thank You for feeding us at Your Son's Table. As we leave this gathering, may it continue to strength our trust in You in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING

† Song of Sending

MAY THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU

You have called us out of darkest night
Into Your glorious light
That we may sing the wonders of
The risen Christ
May our every breath retell the grace
That broke into our strife
With boundless love and deepest joy
With endless life

Chorus

*May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

All the earth is Yours and all within
Each harvest is Your own
And from Your hand we give to You
To make Christ known
May the seeds of mercy grow in us
For those who have not heard
May songs of praise build lives of grace
To spread Your Word *Chorus*

This our holy priv'lege to declare
Your praises and Your name
To every nation tribe and tongue
Your church proclaim

*May the peoples praise You
Let the nations be glad
All Your blessing comes
That we may praise
May praise the Name of Jesus*

Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
Worthy worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Holy Holy is the Lord Almighty
All creation praise Your glorious Name *(Repeat)*
Chorus

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www.songsolutions

† The Sending

Pastor: As we now go into the world:

All: May we be on the lookout for the return of Christ.

Pastor: When we struggle, fear, or fail:

All: May we remember Christ's sacrifice that covers every sin.

Pastor: As we encounter neighbors and co-workers:

All: May we pursue peace because we belong to the God of peace.

† The Blessing

Pastor: And now may the God of peace, who, through the blood of the eternal covenant, brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the Great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, and work in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.

People: To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen!

Deacon of the Day

Dowell Stackpole– December 10

Johnny Tassin– December 17

Pete Cansick– December 24

Save the Date

Sun, Dec 10 – Young Professionals Lunch at Kincaid's

Sun, Jan 7, 11:30 – Saltillo Mexico Mission Trip (July, 20-27 2024)

Info Meeting

Sat, Jan 13, 8:30 – Men's Breakfast

Wed, Jan 24 – Super Wednesdays begin

Fri-Sat, Jan 26-27 – FWPC 101 New Members Class

Information & Events

Visitors: Pick up visitor information at the visitor kiosk in the Fellowship Hall immediately following morning worship.

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree: Today following worship you may select an angel from the tree in the Fellowship Hall to purchase a Christmas gift for a child on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Each angel includes a child's name, age, and suggested gift. Questions? Contact Rich Saadeh at 817-718-0175.

Benevolence Offering: Today, December 17, special offering will be taken for widows and families in need in our congregation. Please make checks payable to FWPC and list Benevolence on the memo line or make online donations at continuetogive.com/FWPCben.

Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve: Our Lord's Day service on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve will begin at 10:00 a.m. There will not be Christian Formation Classes on these Sundays. These holiday services will be one hour, and Pre-K to 2nd Grade will stay in worship for its entirety (no KIWI classes). Evening worship at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will include communion and a candlelight service.

Christian Formation Classes will return on Sunday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m. A new adult class will be offered in the Lecture Hall based on Paul Tripp's *book Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, helping us discover where change is needed in our own lives and how we can lovingly speak truth into the lives of others.

Financial Report

Fiscal year June 2023-May 2024		
June – November	This Year	Last Year
General Fund Giving YTD	619,997	642,115
General Fund Expenses YTD	718,075	650,045
How we're doing YTD	-98,077	-7,930

Our Fiscal Year began June 1. Through the first two months of our fiscal year, we spent \$98,077 more than our income. This is \$90,147 increase over last year. As of November 30, we have \$162,561 cash on hand after liabilities.

Part of your faithful giving supports Bradford Green, TCU Campus Minister, with Reformed University Fellowship.

- ❖ NEW! Mobile Giving: Text the amount you want to give to 817-934-6447. The first time will take you through the setup. After that, 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.
- ❖ 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.

IMPORTANT 2023 YEAR-END DEADLINES

- ❖ Your check must be dated no later than December 31st.
- ❖ The envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31st.
- ❖ Online donations for 2023 will be accepted until midnight Central time on December 31st.

Mailing Address: Fort Worth Presbyterian Church
PO Box 16307 Fort Worth, TX 76162



LESSONS & CAROLS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6:00 P.M.
FORT WORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Nursery provided for four years and younger. Christmas cookie fellowship to follow.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



5 PM



Fort Worth Presbyterian Church

By God's grace and all for his glory, Fort Worth Presbyterian Church exists to gather for biblically saturated worship, grow together in the life of the gospel, and go out to bear witness to the reign of Christ in all things.

SESSION (ELDERS)

Brandon Eggar 615-605-5182	David Welch 817-938-0833
Steve Fults 817-773-8772	Scott Zink 817-395-8376
Scott Hames 817-313-1869	Ben Dyess Elder Emeritus
Jack Norris 817-821-0918	John Weiser Elder Emeritus
Scott Wade 817-368-667	

For Pastoral Care Appointment: 817-731-3300

Prayer Requests: prayer@fortworthpca.org

DEACONS

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Herb Haertner 817-919-1045	Dowell Stackpole 817-223-1042
Chris Jordan 817-271-0150	David Steed on sabbatical
Don Judd 817-874-4205	Johnny Tassin 281-684-0053
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Katie Peterson 972-978-5255
katiepeterson200@gmail.com

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church

6251 Oakmont Trail, Fort Worth TX 76132

817-731-3300 | fwpca@fortworthpca.org

Monday-Friday | 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-5:00 PM

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 16307, Fort Worth TX 76162

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