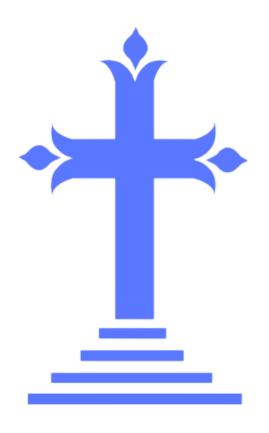
Fort Worth Presbyterian Church



December 3, 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 great wisdom of the Advent season immediately preceding Christmas is that we're all invited together to prepare ourselves for the Lord's coming by gathering intentionally as a community to hear the truths about the human condition that are hard to bear. This is our corporate task in Advent, and our privilege – to listen for these truths in the context of faith

Fleming Rutledge

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 3, 2023 —

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

The Gospel Greeting

Rev. Brandon Eggar

Pastor: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit!

People: Amen!

† The Call to Worship

Pastor: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former

things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

People: Be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I

create Jerusalem to be a joy and her people to be a gladness.

Pastor: I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be

heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

From Isaiah 65:17-19

† Hymn of Praise

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. /Refrain/

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell Thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [Refrain]

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. /Refrain/

† Invocation

† A Psalm Reading

Psalm 80:1-3, 14, 15, 17-19

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock.

People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Pastor: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might

and come to save us!

People: Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: Turn again, O God of Hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have

regard for this vine, the stock that Your right hand planted, and for

the Son whom You have made strong for Yourself.

People: Let Your hand be on the Man of Your right hand, the Son of

Man whom You have made strong for Yourself.

Pastor: Then we shall not be turned back from You; give us life, and we will

call on Your name!

All: Restore us, O LORD God of Hosts! Let Your face shine, that

we may be saved!

† Doxology

Red Trinity Hymnal # 735

Gloria Patri

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.

Confession of Sin

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You call us to repent of our sins. Soften our proud

and stubborn hearts.

All: Lord, have mercy!

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You have accomplished the forgiveness of sins. Teach

us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

All: Christ, have mercy!

Pastor: Holy Spirit, You search our hearts and show us truth. Direct us in

the way of righteousness.

All: Lord, have mercy!

Silent Confession

† Assurance of Pardon

Pastor:

We ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

All:

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

Titus 3:3-5

† The Greeting of Peace

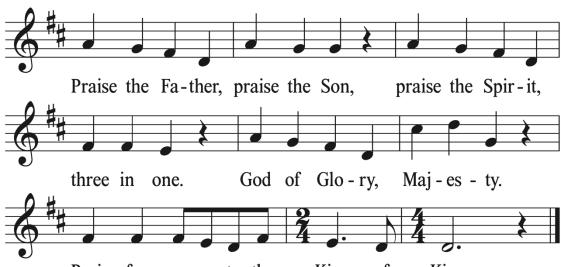
Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

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

† Song of Renewal

KING OF KINGS 1. In the dark - ness, we were wait-ing with-out hope, light. with - out 'Till from heav you _ came run __ ning there was en mer -To ful - fill cy in ____ your eyes. the law_ and pro - phets a vir to gin came the Word. From throne a of end - less glo ry, to a cradle in ___ the dirt._



King Kings. Praise for - ev-er to the of 2. To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost

> To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side Knowing this was our salvation

Jesus for our sake You died *Chorus*

3. And the morning that You rose All of heaven held its breath Till that stone was moved for good For the Lamb had conquered death And the dead rose from their tombs And the angels stood in awe For the souls of all who'd come To the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born Then the Spirit lit the flame Now this Gospel truth of old Shall not kneel shall not faint By His blood and in His Name In His freedom I am free For the love of Jesus Christ

Who has resurrected me *Chorus*

CCLI Song # 7127647 Brooke Ligertwood | Jason Ingram | Scott Ligertwood © 2019 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Fellow Ships Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

COMMITTING TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Lighting of the Advent

The Prophecy Candle Isaiah 64:1-9, Mark 13:24-37 Galli and Jill Davis

Reader:

We light the first candle of Advent to remind us that the prophets foretold that our God would bring peace and salvation to a people in trouble. May our God give us peace as we wait for the Day when He will make all things new.

Prayer of Intercession

Scott Hames

(followed by a time of silent prayer)

Common Prayer

Elder: Let us now join our voices praying:

All:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in this time when our Lord Jesus came to visit us in great humility; that in that Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and dead, we may rise to life immortal with Him. 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 2

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. [2] 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 the nations shall flow to it,[3] and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. [4] He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; 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. [5] O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. [6] For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortune-tellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. [7] Their land is filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land is filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. [8] Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made. [9] So man is humbled, and each one is brought low—do not forgive them! [10] Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty. [11] The haughty looks of man shall be brought low, and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day.[12] For the Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low; [13] against all the cedars of Lebanon, lofty and lifted up; and against all the oaks of Bashan; [14] against all the lofty mountains, and against all the uplifted hills; [15] against every high tower, and against every fortified wall; [16] against all the ships of Tarshish, and against all the beautiful craft. [17] And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. [18] And the idols shall utterly pass away. [19] And people shall enter the caves of the rocks and the holes of the ground, from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. [20] In that day mankind will cast away their idols of silver and their idols of gold, which they made for themselves to worship, to the moles and to the bats, [21] to enter the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs, from before the terror of the Lord, and from the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to terrify the earth. [22] Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he?

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon Pastor Brandon

ADVENT EXPECTATION

Future Fullness

Walking in the Light of Christ's Advent

Discussion Questions:

- 1. In what ways do you look to yourself and to our world to provide you with fullness? How does Isaiah counter this?
- 2. Since Advent is primarily about Christ's return, what are some ways his return should shape your present?
- 3. In what ways are you pursuing peace with others? In what ways are you not?

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:



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)

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.

Out of the depths I cry to You, in darkest places I will call.

Incline Your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were You to count my sinful ways,

How could I come before Your throne?

Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze,

I stand redeemed by grace alone.

I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
On Your word I will rely.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
Till my soul is satisfied.

So, put Your hope in God alone.

Take courage in His power to save,

Completely and forever won

By Christ's emerging from the grave (*Chorus*)

Now He has come to make a way, and God Himself has paid the price,
That all who trust in Him today,
Find healing in His sacrifice
That all who trust in Him today,
Find healing in His sacrifice (Chorus)

I will wait for You, I will wait for You,
Through the storm and through the night.
I will wait for You, surely wait for You,
For Your love is my delight.

CCLI Song # 7118914

Jordan Kauflin | Keith Getty | Matthew Merker | Stuart Townend © 2018 Getty Music Publishing; Jordan Kauflin Music; Matthew Merker Music; Townend Songs

BEHOLD THE LAMB



COME TO THE FEAST

Go to the highways and hedges
Go to the farthest of fields
Go and compel the sick and the well
For our Father's house will be filled

Go to the streets of the city
Bring in the crippled and blind
All who would taste this banquet of grace
Must come and waste no more time

Come to the feast
Come to the table
The great and the least
The rich and the poor
Come to the feast
Come to the table
Come and hunger no more

In the robe of the Lamb you'll be covered
Dressed in His pure righteousness
For all of your guilt His blood it was spilt
So come by your Father be blessed

Come to the feast
Come to the table
The great and the least
The rich and the poor
Come to the feast
Come to the table
Come and hunger no more
©2012 Jeff Lawson Music

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray:

All:

Our Father, we thank You for feeding us at Your Son's Table and by Your Spirit nourishing us with our true food and true drink, the Body and Blood of Your Son the Lord Jesus Christ. May we go forth from this place to serve and honor You, our Good and Gracious God. Amen.

GOING OUT WITH GOD'S BLESSING † Song of Sending

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art, Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news,
glad tidings of a birth
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness,
our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

† 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

Daniel Sneed– December 3 Dowell Stackpole– December 10 Johnny Tassin– December 17

Save the Date

Mon, Dec 4, 7 pm – Ladies Game Night Sun, Dec 10 – Young Professionals Lunch at Kincaid's Sun, Jan 7, 11:30 – Saltillo Mexico Mission Trip (July, 20-27 2024) Info Meeting 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.

Christmas Mercy: Prison Fellowship Angel Tree begins next Sunday. 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. A special offering will be taken on Sunday, December 10 for the Geneva Benefits Relief Fund supporting retired PCA pastors, pastors' widows, and ministry staff who live near the poverty line. On Sunday, December 17, a Benevolence Offering for widows and families in need in our congregation will be taken. For the special offerings, please make checks payable to FWPC and list Geneva or Benevolence on the memo line, or make online donations at fortworthpca.org/advent.

Ladies Game Night, annual holiday edition, is tomorrow, December 4. Join us for a night of fun in the Lecture Hall from 7:00-9:00 p.m., and bring a wrapped gift under \$15 to participate in a gift exchange game. Friends and snacks to share are welcome. Decaf coffee and water are provided. Ladies Game Night occurs monthly on the first Monday of the month (with exceptions made for holidays). Questions? Contact Alice Miller at 817-721-3578 or Margaret Kunkel at 214-802-5554.

Officer Candidates: The congregation nominated Officers this past May who have undergone Elder/Deacon training and been examined by the Session. The Session is now recommending Matt Jones and Tim Watt for your prayerful consideration for the office of Elder at Fort Worth Presbyterian. For more information on their backgrounds and service in Christ's church, pick up the Elder Candidates brochure on the fellowship hall table. We will hold the election for these men Sunday, December 10, at a congregational meeting directly following worship.

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 17, at 6:00 p.m., the story of Jesus will be told through scripture and song. Volunteers are needed to bring Christmas cookies and to help with setup and cleanup for the reception that follows the service. If you are willing to serve our church family in this way, please sign up online using the QR code or see the signup sheet on the fellowship hall table.

Financial Report

Fiscal year June 2022-May 2023

June – October	This Year	Last Year
General Fund Giving YTD	480,107	471,040
General Fund Expenses YTD	593,958	545,417
How we're doing YTD	-113,850	-74,376

Our Fiscal Year began June 1. Through the first two months of our fiscal year, we spent \$113,958 more than our income. This is \$48,541 increase over last year. As of October 31, we have \$147,642 cash on hand after liabilities.

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

❖ If you would like to give online, you can sign up for ACH/Credit/Debit giving from our home page fortworthpca.org.

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









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

Pete Cansick 610-451-9965
Herb Haertner 817-919-1045
Chris Jordan 817-271-0150
Don Judd 817-874-4205
Randy Shannon 817-807-5660
Daniel Sneed 817-343-1589
Dowell Stackpole817-223-1042
David Steed on sabbatical
Johnny Tassin 281-684-0053
Andy Warren 817-614-3243

SENIOR PASTOR
Brandon Eggar 817-731-3300 x0201
brandon@fortworthpca.org

MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR
Justin Pierce, DMA 817-731-3300 x0208
justin@fortworthpca.org

KIDS HOPE DIRECTOR Jill Davis 817-896-7113 jill@fortworthpca.org

MEN'S MINISTRY Chris Jordan 817-271-0150 cjordan@eavi.com

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
Kelly Calvert 817-832-6258
communications@fortworthpca.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Life Basiyaka 817-731-3300, x0201 life@fortworthpca.org DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS Steve Fults 817-731-3300 x0202 steve@fortworthpca.org

WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR Jill Davis 817-896-7113 jill@fortworthpca.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR Rebecca York 214-681-2496 rebecca@fortworthpca.org

NURSERY COORDINATOR Neecia Eggar 210-542-1772 nursery@fortworthpca.org

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Travis Robnett 405-831-2831
travis@fortworthpca.org

YOUTH INTERN 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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