



First Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Folder and pass it to others seated on your pew. If you have a prayer request, complete a yellow prayer card. Ushers will collect them during the opening hymn.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Prelude

Alleluia, He Comes to Us

arr. Michael R. Keller

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Dolores Thacker, Alice Guerrero, Nancy Saldivar

Please join in singing:

*Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
remembering past promises with present faithfulness.*

Unison Prayer: Loving God, as we enter this season of Advent, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, so that we may walk in the light of Christ. In his name we pray. Amen.

Introit #90

Wait for the Lord (Psalm 27)

Jacques Berthier

†Call to Worship

Debra Kirkpatrick

One: The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.

All: Teach us your paths as we wait on your coming promise.

One: The heavens are speaking; your kingdom is arriving.

All: Strengthen our hearts as we wait on your coming promise.

†Hymn #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*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 every nation, joy of every longing heart.
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.*

Prayer of Confession

Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths. Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray.

(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Anthem

Let The Christ Child In

Jay Althouse and Sally K. Albrecht

*Do not be afraid, for God will send forth a son. A tiny child will come to comfort and love ev'ryone.
a virgin will give birth; God's son will come to earth. So, open up your heart: Let the Christ child in.*

*Do not be afraid, prepare ye the way of the Lord. Turn from you sin; make room for the one who is adored.
The angels sing with joy to greet the baby boy. So, open up your heart. Let the Christ child in.*

*Do not be afraid, for God will send forth a son. A tiny child will come to comfort and love ev'ryone.
a virgin will give birth; God's son will come to earth. So, open up your heart: Let the Christ child in. Let the Christ child in.*

New Testament Readings: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Sermon

"Hope or Fear?"

Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair

†Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (p.35)

†Hymn #357

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.*

*The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.*

*Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.*

*The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory

People, Look East

BESANCON, arr. Dale Wood

†Doxology #84

Creator of the Stars of Night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

†Prayer of Dedication

†Hymn #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all 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 sins and sorrows 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.*

†Charge and Benediction

†Response #542

God Be with You Till We Meet Again


William G. Tomer

Postlude

Trumpet Tune on WACHET AUF

arr. Martha Albright




†Please stand in body or spirit.

 **Flowers** today are given to the **GLORY OF GOD** by Dan and Melba Slaven celebrating their granddaughters' birthdays, Katie Slaven and Kaitlyn Guidry.

Worship in the Sanctuary is at 10:30 am each Sunday. Livestream can be found at fpcpasadena.org.

FPC Sunday School: All classes except Men's Bible Study begin at 9 am.

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study**—8:45 am in the Library. Led by Mark Corder.
- **Stepping Out in Faith**—Bride's Room & Zoom (contact Bonnie Keith for the Zoom link). Pat Abrams leads the current study of *Paul for Everyone: 2 Corinthians*, by N. T. Wright.
- **Current Christianity**—Room #8, discussion of the book *Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can Make All of Life Better*, by Brant Hansen.
- **Kindergarten through 5th grade**—Room #7. Led by Bonnie Keith and Donna Gilchrest.
- **6th-12th grade**—Room #10. Led by James Jackson and Brian Davis.

 Drop by the Fellowship Hall for WASSAIL, coffee, and treats during this Advent and Christmas season.
 Sunday mornings in December. Provided by the Caring Ministry. 

Cut-Ups meet **tomorrow**, Monday, December 2, at 1:00 pm, in the Cut-Ups Room (#9), to make very cute **Craft Stick Plant Sticks**. Bring your glue gun or glue. Optional: Lunch - 11:30 am at Johnny Tamale's. Contact Liz Reed, if needed, at 832-256-5814.

The Bethlehem Market will be open in the narthex after worship services on Dec 8, Dec 15, and Dec 22. Stop by to "shop" or you may mail (or put in the secure mailbox) your form and donation to the church and receive acknowledgement cards through the mail. Give a gift that will make a difference.

Presbyterian Women cordially invite the women of the church to the Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas music will be provided by the children in the Early Childhood Program and lesson 4 "Water Justice" from Let Justice Roll Down by Patricia K. Tull will be presented by Rhonda Haskins and Carol Parks. This is a joint meeting of the day and night circles and will be available on Zoom. For more information contact Melba Slaven or Bonnie Keith.

Note: There will be No First Sunday Lunch in December; these will resume on January 5, 2025

The 85th Anniversary Planning Committee wants your help! Who at FPC has made a difference in your life? Write 3-4 sentences about a saint among us past or present and submit it to office@fpcpasadena.org or drop it by the office. Sketches (subject to editing) will be included in upcoming bulletins as we draw closer to October 12, 2025, and our grand celebration.

The 85th Anniversary table is in the narthex for edible treats and other items to purchase. All proceeds go to the 85th Anniversary Fund.

The Early Childhood Program is having their annual Christmas program on Tuesday, December 10 at 6 pm. All are invited!

The next Young at Heart Bus Trip (for ages 55+) is **Wednesday December 11**, to the Festival of Lights in Moody Gardens, Galveston TX where we will be exploring a variety of holiday attractions including a mile-long trail of illuminated lights and a Buffet dinner. Cost (about \$27.00 for festival & dinner). Bus will load at 2:45 pm, depart at 3:00 pm.

The Brunch and Book Group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, December 13** at 6 p.m. for a Christmas potluck dinner and crazy book exchange party! Feel free to bring a friend or spouse. Bring a good book wrapped for the exchange as well, and also a dinner dish.

Unhanging of the Greens is December 29, following worship.

Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

Health concerns: Emma & Pat Abrams; Nola Bray; Jim Tinney; Frank & Glenda Kucera; Mike & Susan Wallace; Laura Neal Hatridge, and her family; Kay Hutson; Imelda Carrillo; Anne Berridge; Cathy Armstrong; Diane Hall's loved ones; Ukraine and the Middle East.

Loss of loved one: Betty Rodriguez and family. Her husband's grandmother died November 25, 2024.

Sunday, Dec 1	Wassail and Treats during Advent Season—FH	
	Sunday School/Men's Class—Library	8:45 am
	Sunday School/All Ages	9:00 am
	Worship Service	10:30 am
	Handbells—#11	12:15 pm
Monday, Dec 2	Cut-Ups—#9	1:00 pm
	NO Caring Ministry—#10	6:00 pm
	NO Worship Ministry	7:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec 3	PW Board Meeting—Library	9:30 am
	PRIVATE CHRISTMAS LUNCH—FH	10:00 am
	Chair Yoga—Narthex	5:00 pm
	Floor Yoga—Narthex	6:15 pm
	PRIVATE GIRL SCOUTS—FH	6:30 pm
Wednesday, Dec 4	Brown Bag & Bible—FH	12:00 pm
	Prayer Shawl—#10 and Zoom	1:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Thursday, Dec 5	Men's Breakfast—Frank's	7:30 am
	Chain Stitchers—FH	12:00 pm
	Intercessory Prayer—Library	1:30 pm
	Chair Yoga—FH	5:00 pm
	Chain Stitchers—#9	6:00 pm
	Floor Yoga—FH	6:15 pm
	PRIVATE /HOA—#10	6:30 pm
Saturday, Dec 7	PRIVATE /DAR—FH	9:30 am-1:30 pm
Sunday, Dec 8	Sunday School-All Ages	9:00 am
	Fellowship—FH	10:00 am
	Worship Service	10:30 am
	NO Discipleship—Library	11:30 am
	Handbells—#11	12:15 pm

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to live and share the good news of God's love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ, to equip people for discipleship and service, and to work for social justice and peace."

FPC Elders

Class of 2024

Brett Coe
Donna Gilchrest
Bonnie Keith
Tom Swan

Class of 2025

Roy Kreitz
James Jackson
Pat McPhail

Class of 2026

Laura Phipps
Betsy Marlow
Sarah Brown
Jason Reed
Barry Webb

Class of 2027

Brett Coe
Kashif Dean
Nancy Saldivar
Milo Wharry

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Class of 2024

Donna Coe
Rhonda Haskins
Elois Murray
James Taylor

Class of 2025

Imelda Carrillo
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Class of 2026

Karen Schimnowski
Samantha Cayton
David Kirkpatrick
Claudia Kreitz
Dolores Thacker

Class of 2027

Lavina Brown
Shannon English
Carol Parks
Karen Taylor

Leading in Worship Today

Rev. Dr. Fairfax F Fair
Debra Kirkpatrick, Liturgist
Marilyn Wilkins, Music Director
Ron Ollis, Organist
Jamie Adams, Handbell Director
Barry Webb, Audio-Visual
Yulissa Delgado, Nursery Attendant

CCLI #3275908
CVLI #505477134



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FPC Trustees

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