

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

January 7, 2018

The glory of God
is humanity
fully alive.

Irenaeus

First Presbyterian Church
Epiphany/Communion Sunday

January 7, 2018

11:00 am

Writing in **bold** is for the congregation response.

*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Around the Word

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME

BELLS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 29

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

**People: The voice of the Lord causes the oak to whirl,
and in God's temple all say "Glory!"**

*HYMN 155 (*sing three times*)

"Raise a Song of Gladness"

Jubilate Deo

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of glory,
you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world,
to reveal your love for all people.**

**We confess that our sin and pride
hide the brightness of your light.**

**We turn away from the poor;
we ignore cries for justice;
we do not strive for peace.**

**In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin,
and baptize us once again with your Spirit,
that, forgiven and renewed, we may show forth your glory
shining in the face of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*RESPONSE (*GTG 643, v 2.*)

Nun Danket Alle Gott

**O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts,
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in God's grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills,
in this world and the next.**

Hearing the Word

CHILDREN'S SERMON (*175, v.1*)

"Seek Ye First"

Carrie Fisher

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Alleluia! Allelu, Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM

"Christmas Joy"

Mark Schweizer

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:9-11

Liturgist: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh"

Rev. Ann Philbrick

Sharing the Word with the World

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (*GTG 143, v4*)

Regent Square

**All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.
*Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.***

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all baptized people to receive communion today. This invitation is not reserved for Presbyterians, nor is it just for adults; it is for all baptized persons who wish to come. We receive communion by coming forward, taking a piece of bread from the loaf, then dipping it into the cup. The pastor will be offering wine; the elder will offer unfermented grape juice. All of the bread is gluten free.

“Access to the table is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.” Book of Order, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

*HYMN 150 (vv 1 & 2)

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Dix

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
God of majesty and splendor...

...Therefore we praise you,

joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: (singing) (GTG 1, v1) Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

(the prayer continues)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER

*HYMN 105 (vv 3 & 4)

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Dix

*BENEDICTION

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Greet each other in the love & forgiveness of Christ; saying
“Peace be with you!” and responding “and also with you!”

Resources used in today’s worship service include:
Book of Common Worship, The Living Pulpit

January 7, 2018
Leadership in today's service

PASTOR
Kim Rodrigue

LITURGIST
Mary Frances Brashears

PREACHER
Rev. Ann Philbrick

MUSIC DIRECTOR
May Ball

PIANIST
Amanda Wadsworth



WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and sign the guest/visitors card located in your bulletin and put in the offering plate. We care about you and want to know who you are.

We welcome you to historic, progressive First Presbyterian Church this morning! Here are a few things to get you up to speed.

- A bathroom is available (with a changing table) at the back of the church in the left hand alcove as you face the entrance doors.
- We take the passing of the peace near the beginning of the service seriously, so don't be surprised if you get offered hugs!
- Please plan to stay after worship for a few minutes to share refreshments at the back of the church; it's an extension of our understanding of communion and a chance to share God's hospitality.
- We are the only "More Light Congregation" in New Orleans which means we welcome not only the membership, but the leadership and talents of all genders, abilities, races, and sexual orientations.
- We appreciate the spiritual and financial support your attendance brings. You may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service, or give using your smartphone to scan this code--->
- Even if you are just visiting the city, we want you to feel welcome in our community and to involve yourself in the life of this place. Please sign the visitor book in the vestibule before you go and like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/fpcno! We also have a Yahoo Group (go to www.fpcno.org and click on the Yahoo Group connection) that will keep you up to date on all the fun activities and service opportunities with the church.

EQUALITY



FOR ALL



WHAT'S UP?

Don't forget to check out the updated First Presbyterian Church website www.fpcno.org to catch up on breaking church news, events and links to the wider world of mission! Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Sunday School for children & youth begins next week! January 14th at 10am. Our teachers are: Lynn Hyder and Christopher Roberts (youth); Tracy Rene' Helms-Capasso, Billye Constance and Marjan Aslanberigi (elementary); Magen Dolce and Angela Horn (pre-school). Many thanks to them for their leadership!

The FPCNO adult Bible study

Takes place every Sunday morning from 9:30am to 10:30am in the Session room. Each week we read and discuss the current lesson from "The Present Word" Bible study series (published quarterly by PCUSA). Our Sunday morning gatherings are informal and typically consists of approximately 6 to 8 participants. All are welcome to attend. Coffee and refreshments are served.

FPCNO THIS WEEK

Monday	1pm-3pm	Program of Hope Setup	Sanctuary
Wednesday	9am-10:30am	Program of Hope	Sanctuary <i>(worship and outreach to less fortunate, all are welcome to volunteer or seek help)</i>
Thursday	6pm-7pm	Meditation Service	Session room
Sunday	9:30pm 10am 11am	Adult Bible Study Children's Sunday School Sunday Worship	Session room Rms 102, 207 & 208 Sanctuary



Prayer List

Please keep this list with you
this week and pray for...



Zane Fisher and his family – Zane's mother died after the Christmas holiday. Please keep the Fishers and relatives in your prayers for God's comfort through this sorrowful time.

**Our Homebound members and friends.
Please visit them and remember them in Prayer.**

Mary Knight

Mina Crais

Gloria Boling (Randy Boling's mom)

Adrian (Tudy) Manson

Joyce Kleinfeldt (Henry Kleinfeldt's sister)

Prayers for the homeless

Results

Poet: J. Allen Shaw, ©2017

Many of us are dreamers, in 2018 become doers.
Make your thoughts actions and become pursuers.
Don't make resolutions without an action plan.
The secret to success is right in your hands.

Thomas Edison discovered more than 1000 ways,
to not invent a bulb of light,
But eventually, through perspiration, he found the solution
to get it just right.
If he had stopped at nine hundred ninety-nine,
You'd be reading in the dark, and might miss a line.

Take the first step, do something outrageous,
The act of doing, will become quite contagious.
Accomplishments will come closer each day,
Don't just wish, but act and pray!

Don't let pride ever cause you to stumble,
Baby steps are still progress and keep us humble.
It's better to move slowly then to turn or hide,
Keep your eyes focused, let God be your guide.

At the end of the year, you'll discover you've been moving,
Much closer to the goals, you have always been pursuing.
It won't all happen on January one,
But with faith, hope, and action, you will get the job done.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WWW.FPCNO.ORG; FACEBOOK.COM/FPCNO; TWITTER.COM/FPCNO

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

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SEXTONS:

REV. TODD & LADONNA VANDEGRIFT

THE SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION, SHERRI HUTTON
CANDICE BELLAU, TREASURER

CLASS OF 2017

SHERRI HUTTON
ZANE FISHER

CLASS OF 2018

DIANE KLEINFELDT
CHRISTOPHER ROBERTS

CLASS OF 2019

CANDICE BELLAU
TRACY RENE' HELMS-CAPASSO

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

DAVID CAPASSO, CHAIR

CLASS OF 2017

DAVID CAPASSO
JUSTIN WOOD

CLASS OF 2018

RANDY BOLING
CARRIE FISHER

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