

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue

New Orleans, La. 70125

December 1, 2024

First Sunday in **Advent**



Communion Sunday

First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent/Communion Sunday

December 1, 2024

11:00 am

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

*Please stand as you are able.

Please silence your phones during worship service.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (hymn #88, v. 1)

**All: O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*HYMN 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

BEFORE LIGHTING THE CANDLES (hymn no. 84, v.1)

**All: “Creator of the Stars of Night”
Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Lord God, who are we that you should come to us? Yet you have loved us so much that you came to us as a baby, so long ago, and you are coming again at the end of time. Lord, we are not worthy of all you have done for us. But here we are, coming before you with all our imperfections, trusting in you, telling you all the things in our hearts that are weighing us down. Let us pray together the prayer of confession.

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek the things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Silent Prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus came to us that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. He did not come into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

Response: And also with you!

HEARING THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM: "Like a Child" Dan Damon

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (pg. 636)

Liturgist: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:8-14 (pg. 828)

Preacher: The word of the Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God

SERMON Sermon Series: Advent Windows

1. "A Window to the Past"

Rev. Kathleen Crighton

* HYMN 505 (verse 1) "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"

SHARING THE WORD WITH THE WORLD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY Avery & Marsh

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION LITURGY

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

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: God of goodness, when you spoke on that first morning of creation...

...With those whose hearts are strong in holiness,
with those who long for justice for all people,
we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

(All sing:)

Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy! Holy is the Lord.

Holy is the Father, Holy is the Son,

Holy is the Spirit, Blessed Three in One.

Leader: You are holy, God of our salvation...

...As we set out on this Advent journey,
as we seek to walk the way to Bethlehem,
we remember that mystery we call faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Leader: Come now to your children gathered at this table...

Leader: Let us say what we believe, using the words of the
Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed (*p. 35 in Glory to God hymnal*)

The Lord's Prayer

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, prepare us to serve our sisters and brothers. Strengthen us to walk with others to Bethlehem. Come, Lord Jesus, and steer us into places where we do not want to go. Guide us to throw ourselves into the mission of feeding the hungry, into the privilege of learning from the poor. May the Holy Spirit move us to increase in love for others. May we take up the cause of justice in every corner of our lives. May we work to bring the kingdom of hope near to everyone around us. Amen.

*HYMN 108 (verses 1, 2 and 3) "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Parts of today's communion liturgy are from the writings of Rev. Thom Shuman, a Presbyterian pastor in Ohio and brother of Elder Barbara Shuman Hoffman of University Presbyterian in Baton Rouge, a longtime leader in our presbytery.

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

PREACHING: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

LITURGIST: deacon, David Capasso

PIANIST: Amanda Wadsworth

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS: elders, Diane and Henry Kleinfeldt

OFFERING: elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

BELL RINGER: deacon, David Rabinowitz

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FPCNO THIS WEEK

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|------------------|--|---|--|
| Monday | 7pm-9pm | "Carrollton" AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | 7pm-9pm | "Big Easy" AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 11am-1pm
7pm-9pm | Gurdjieff Group
Disco Amigos | Fellowship Hall
Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | 1pm-11pm | Tango Christmas Party | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 9:45am -10:15am
10am-11am
11am-12pm
6pm-8pm | F.P.C Adult Bible Study
M.C.C Sunday Service
F.P.C Sunday Service
Advent Bible Study | Conference Rm.
Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary
Conference Rm. |



Prayer List



Please pray for these
Individuals and their families.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Dianne Wickes, Kathy's friend, the surgeon was unable to remove the cancerous tumor. Prayers for her family.

Kimberly Benberry-Jones a co-worker of Peter Cho. Her mother died.

Anton Constance, FPCNO young adult member attending Babson College in Massachusetts.

The Horn family, Mike, Angela, Ethan, and Jack.

Emily Ruppel, FPCNO member attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

RECOVERING

Bruce Mather, recovering from a recent procedure.

Mary Frances Brashears, recovering from surgery.

Marshal Fisher, recovering from sinus surgery.

George Cheatle; Linda Robertson; Tom Tatum; Sandra Sarr.

ILLNESS

Amanda Wadsworth, health issues.

Lucy Scinocco, Louanne's mom cancer is starting to become aggressive.

Delilah Ballou, sister of Billye Constance, complications after surgery.

Bruce Robertson, facing cancer treatments.

Bijoux, Amanda's Wadsworth dog, has heart failure.

Nancy Wadsworth, back in the hospital.

Wilma Lejeune, sister of Linda Robertson, dealing with cancer.

Wendy Grascel, sister-in-law of Kristy Ruppel, had a stroke.

Bob Sarradet, Canna's stepfather is having health issues.

Mahmoud Aslanbaigi, Marjan's father has had cancer surgery.

OUR HOMEBOUND FAMILY

Adrian (Tudy) Manson, at her home.

Linda Donato' assisted living, Sherri Hutton's mom.

DEATHS

Charlotte Schrader, mother-in-law of Mark Van Hala.

Jennings Hutton, Sherri Hutton's dad.

Nancy Hooker, aunt of Mark Van Hala's wife.

Troxel Ballou, Ken Allen's uncle.

Suni McMath, mother of Sydney McMath.

Eleanore Valek, mother of Dave Rabinowitz and Dani Tracey.

James Bailey Henderson Jr., Cheryl's brother, and Chris's uncle.



WELCOME VISITORS!

We Are Glad You Are Here

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

- If you are a visitor or guest we invite you to sign the visitor/guest register which is located in the Narthex and/or 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.
- 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.
- During the time of the passing of the peace, some may be comfortable with hugs, laughs, and conversation, but others may not. Please be respectful of one another's comfort levels. If you would prefer to maintain a social distance, you may pass the peace by folding your arms, making a peace sign, or whatever is comfortable for you.
- **Great news!** We have resumed having coffee available in the narthex before, during, and after worship. Big thanks to our elder, Henry Kleinfeldt for preparing the coffee! We are also offering snacks. Feel free to donate your favorite kinds and leave them on the table beside the coffee fixings.
- We were the first "More Light" congregation in New Orleans and now are the first congregation to be a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians 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. If you wish, you may put cash or a check in the offering plate that will be passed towards the end of the service. If you would like to use a credit card or PayPal to make a secure donation to the Program of Hope or the Capital Campaign, you can go to the church's website, www.fpcno.org and click on the links on the right hand side of the home page.

EQUALITY



FOR ALL

Please like us on Facebook at facebook.com/fpcno and also follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at <https://x.com/fpcno>.

We don't have an official church newsletter, but you can find updates on our Facebook page (above) and website, www.fpcno.org.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

504-866-7409 * FAX 504-910-4477

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

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

PASTOR

REV. KATHLEEN CRIGHTON

REVKATHY@FPCNO.ORG

OFFICE MANAGER/LEASING CONSULTANT

CHERYL A. ROBERTS

CHERYL@FPCNO.ORG

CHOIR DIRECTOR

MAY BALL

MUSICIANS:

AYA MAGAVINA-ALVAREZ; AMANDA WADSWORTH

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

DEE BOLING

WEDDINGS@FPCNO.ORG

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

BRUCE MATHER

WEBSITE TECHS:

TERRY RUPPEL; CARRIE FISHER

TECH SUPPORT:

RICHARD TATUM

SEXTON:

(CORVUS JANITORIAL) MRS. KAREN AND MRS. DARNEISA

THE SESSION

CLERK OF SESSION

KEN ALLEN

ASSISTANT CLERK OF SESSION

BRUCE MATHER

CLASS OF 2024

HENRY KLEINFELDT

LYDIA POLLARD

CLASS OF 2025

BRUCE MATHER

CHRISTIE RUPPEL

CLASS OF 2026

ZANE FISHER

TED SWARTZ

PROGRAM OF HOPE DIRECTOR

DIANE KLEINFELDT

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