

First Presbyterian Church

5401 South Claiborne Avenue
New Orleans, La. 70125

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent



JOY



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Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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 (*v. #1 of hymn #88, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*)

**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 125 "Before the Marvel of This Night"

HYMN 84 (*v. #1*) "*Creator of the Stars of Night*"

**All: 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 THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Readers: The Capasso family

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

**Lord God, all around us people are celebrating this season.
We celebrate the coming of Christ into the world. Others may**

(cont'd next page)

celebrate nothing more than spending money on material things. When everyone around us seems cheerful and happy, we may feel out of step with the rest of the world. Some of us feel the pain of wounded hearts. Some of us grieve for loved ones we have lost. Some of us struggle with illness, or with difficult situations in our lives. We want to be joyful, but sometimes we can't even pretend that we are. Help us to remember you are with us, Lord, even when we have a hard time knowing hope, peace, joy, and love.

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (pg. 553)

Reader: Charlie Fisher

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

***Carol: #86** (vs. 1, 4 & 5) "The People Who Walked in Darkness"

SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-4 (pgs. 748-749)

Reader: Amanda Williamson

The Prophet Micah predicts the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

***Carol: #121** (vs. 1, 2 & 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 (pgs. 826-827)

Reader: elder, Sherri Hutton

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

Clarinet: "Away in a Manger" Charlie Fisher

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 (pg. 828)

Reader: Richard Tatum

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

Choir: "An Advent Prayer" Allen Pote

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 (pg. 828)

Reader: Canna Frentz

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

***Carol: #113** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal pg. 35

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

SIXTH LESSON John 1:1-14(pg. 858)

Reader: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

***Closing Carol #134** “Joy to the World”

*BENEDICTION

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LEADERSHIP IN TODAY’S SERVICE:

MINISTER: Rev. Kathleen Crighton

LITURGIST: Justin Wood

PIANIST: Aya Magavina

ADVENT CANDLES: elder, Tracy Rene Helms-Capasso,
David, Gabriel and Luke Capasso

OFFERING: elders, Henry and Diane Kleinfeldt

BELL RINGER: deacon, David Rabinowitz

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HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Sunday, Dec. 22 @ 6:30pm

7715 Nelson Street

The Capasso family invites all to come
and enjoy holiday fun at their home.

Please bring a dish or drink to share.



FPCNO THIS WEEK

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | 7pm-9pm | “Carrollton” AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Tuesday | 7pm-9pm | “Big Easy” AA Group | Fellowship Hall |
| Wednesday | 11am-1pm | Gurdjieff Foundation | Fellowship Hall |
| | 7pm-9pm | Disco Amigos | Fellowship Hall |
| Thursday | 7pm-9pm | MCC | Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday | 7pm-9pm | Disco Amigos | Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday | 9:45am -10:15am | F.P.C Adult Bible Study | Conference Rm. |
| | 10am-11am | M.C.C Sunday Service | Fellowship Hall |
| | 11am-12pm | F.P.C Sunday Service | Sanctuary |
| | 6pm-8pm | Advent Bible Study | Capasso home, |
| also by Zoom from 5pm-6pm, flowed by a Church Christmas party. | | | |





Prayer List

Please pray for these
Individuals and their families.



PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Marshal Fisher and his roommate, have moved to another apartment.
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

Mary Frances Brashears, recovering from second surgery.
George Cheatle; Linda Robertson; Tom Tatum; Sandra Sarr.

ILLNESS

Amanda Wadsworth, is in the the hospital. Looks like she will be either in Ochsner or Ochsner Rehab for a while.
Lucy Scinocco, Louanne's mom cancer is starting to become aggressive.
Bruce Robertson, facing cancer treatments.
Bijoux, Amanda's Wadsworth dog, has heart failure.
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

Nancy Wadsworth, in a Nursing Home.
Delilah Ballou, sister of Billye Constance.
Adrian (Tudy) Manson, at her home.
Linda Donato' assisted living, Sherri Hutton's mom.

DEATHS

Jennings Hutton, Sherri Hutton's dad.
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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