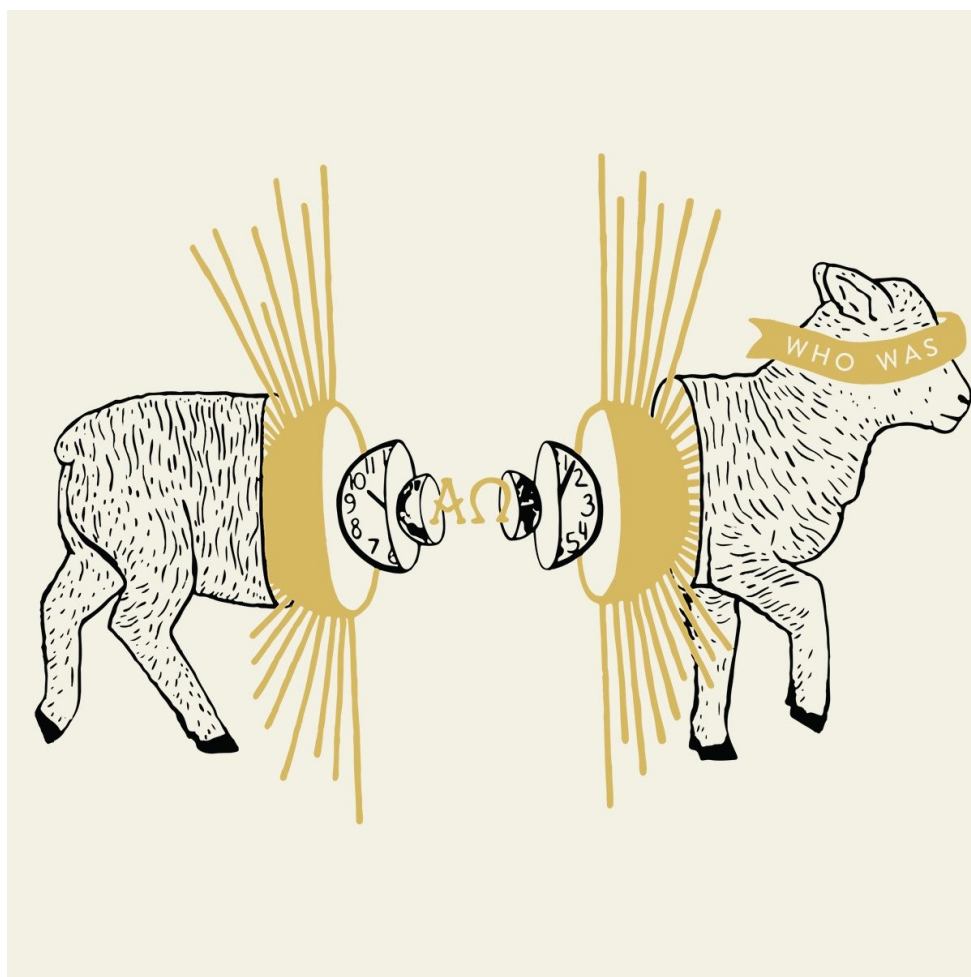




First Presbyterian  
Church | Kerrville



December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon Series: Fully Divine, Fully Human

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! Please fill out the black Friendship Pad located on the pew so that we might welcome you to our FPC community.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

PRELUDE

Sleepers, Wake!

*J.S. Bach*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We gather to light the second candle of Advent.

**We kindle this light, seeking God's comfort amid all the suffering in our world. Let us prepare our hearts and be transformed by God's tender and mighty love, bringing us peace in times of great need.**

Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and arid wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. On this second Sunday of Advent, we seek such a God.

**Let us not grow weary! God's love is always with us.**

## ADVENT PRAYER

†HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God,  
in your gracious presence, we confess our sins and the sins of this world.  
Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided  
against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The fears  
and jealousies we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation  
against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,  
of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.  
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.  
Set us free to serve you in the world.**

*Silent Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends in Christ, remember this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting; God's love for us is as far as the East is from the West. There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God. In Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven, redeemed, and transformed.

**We will share this love with the world! Amen.**

†RESPONSE

Hymn 113

***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN (11:00)

ANTHEM (11:00)

Come, Graceful Rose

Joseph Martin

*Come, graceful rose, we wait for you. Awake our song, our joy renew.  
Come to our world, your hope release, and cover all with perfect peace.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8

pg. 581 O.T.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

pg. 812 N.T.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

A Loving God

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

SILENT REFLECTION

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that God has come to us;  
that God brought us into being, that this God gave us breath and purpose,  
that we have been blessed to be a blessing to others,  
that we have fallen short of this commandment  
but that God has nevertheless loved us despite our brokenness.**

**We believe that God is coming to us;  
that God is not happy to leave us alone,  
that this God will come to us as a particular human being,  
that God will be made known to us in flesh and bone like ours,  
that Mary will soon give birth, and Joseph will soon clap his hands in joy,  
that Jesus Christ will be born and our salvation made complete.**

**We believe that God will come to us;  
that God will have the final word and that Word will be good,  
that this God will give us the presence of the Spirit to continue our work,  
that we are called to be disciples to all the corners of the earth,  
that the day is coming when tears and pain will be no more,  
and all will gather at the Table to sing an endless and perfect "Alleluia!"**

†HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and  
the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

OFFERTORY

Noel

*Louis-Claude Daquin*

†RESPONSE

Hymn 606

***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.***

†HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*You may remain seated and enjoy the postlude or politely exit  
and visit with friends in the Narthex.*

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

*J. S. Bach*



## Thank You for Serving Today

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, Pam Cooper, the Junkin Family, Sam Baublitz, the McAlexander Family, Emily McAllister, Seth Lafler, Sabrina Adrian, Bill Swart, Wes Lane

### USHERS

8:30-Bill & Pam Cooper, Susan Junkin

11:00-Paulette Graves, Dayton Baublitz, Donna Brewton, Deda Garlitz, Ed & Nancy Wallace, John Wehmeyer

### MUSICIANS

Chancel Choir



## Families in Worship

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship. Special Children's Worship Bags are available in the narthex. Parents are encouraged to use the things found in the Worship Bags to help their children prepare for and participate in worship.

Many of our young children participate in worship until after the Conversation with Children. After the Conversation with Children, a member of our child care staff will meet the children in the narthex and take them to the appropriate room.

Childcare is available for infants through children who are in kindergarten in Room 504, in the Family Life Center. An usher can direct you to these rooms.

### Easy ways to give to the ministries of FPC

- Use the green giving envelope located in the pews. Drop the envelope in the offering plate.
- Use secure online giving to First Presbyterian. Sign up today at [www.fpcckerrville.org](http://www.fpcckerrville.org) and click on the Giving tab.
- You can also "text to give" right from your phone. Simply text to **45777** and type in **KERRFPC**. Follow the prompts. It is secure and convenient.

Contact Mary Stone at the church office with any questions.

## First Presbyterian Church

### Staff and Worship Leaders

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#### **Pastors:**

Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, Sr. Pastor  
Head of Staff

Rev. Susan Montoya, Parish Associate  
Eldon Sheffer, Commissioned Ruling Elder

#### **Support Staff:**

Mary Stone, Business Administrator  
Alicia Martin, Asst. Administrator  
Wes Lane, Media Specialist

#### **Ministry Staff:**

Dr. Sabrina Adrian, Organist  
Seth Lafler, Choir Director  
Shannon Tuschak, Care Coordinator  
Audrey Mitchell, Dir. of Children's Ministry  
Emily McAllister, Dir. of Youth & Young Adult Ministry  
Alysse O'Brien, Children's Music Director  
Scott Russell, Children's Corner Director  
Ann Reynolds, YES Center Director  
Ministers — All Our Congregation



## Bulletin Notes

Large print bulletins are available from an usher.

†Please rise as able in body and spirit.

**Bold** type indicates unison response.

To view past worship services please visit  
(<http://fpckerrville.org/worship/video-archive>).



Please take time to silence your cell phones so we may all be fully present in this time and space.



## A Stewardship Update

As of Wednesday, Dec. 6th, we have received 116 pledges totaling **\$653,250.00**. If you have not submitted your pledge yet, there is still time! We are counting on your support and generosity.



## Worship Notes

Both the *Call to Worship* and the *Confessional Sequence* are taken from "Call to Worship." The *Affirmation of Faith* is written by Rev. Stephen M. Feeling. The cover artwork is titled "*Beginning*" by Scott Erickson.



## Let Us Pray

...for our troops, especially for those serving in war-torn countries, and for refugees all over the world.

*In life and in death we belong to God*

John Osborn

*January 31, 1931 ~ November 30, 2023*

*John has been a member since 1994.*



## Welcome, Visitors!

For more information about our church and its missions, visit our website at [www.fpckerrville.org](http://www.fpckerrville.org). If you would like to be contacted by phone or email, please submit a contact request form on our website, or call the church office. You may also fill out the Connect Card located in the pew pocket, or the Friendship Pad (located at the end of each pew). Please place the Connect Card in the offering tray or give it to an usher.

**Prayer or Praise Request?** Prayer request cards can be found in the pews, or you may complete your request on our website at [www.fpckerrville.org](http://www.fpckerrville.org) and it will head right to our prayer team, which meets on Wednesdays at 9 a.m.

## Calendar Highlights at First Presbyterian

For a full listing of church events, log on to [www.fpckerrville.org](http://www.fpckerrville.org) and click on "Calendar".

### Sunday, December 10

- 8:30 Worship—Sanctuary
- 9:30 Fellowship Coffee Time—Ryan Hall
- 9:45 Adult Sunday School—Ryan Hall
- 9:45 Parents' Fellowship Hour—Room 206
- 9:45 Children's Sunday School—Room 210
- 10:00 Youth Sunday School—Family Life Center Youth Room
- 11:00 Worship—Sanctuary & Live Streamed
- 4:00 MS/HS Youth Christmas Party—Family Life Center Gym

### Monday, December 11

- 5:30 Personnel Committee—Room 204

### Tuesday, December 12

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study—Room 207
- 10:15 Encouraging One Another—Room 204
- 10:00 CCP Chapel—Sanctuary
- 4:00 Missional Outreach Committee—Zoom
- 4:30 Children's Corner Preschool Committee—Room 204

### Wednesday, December 13

- 9:00 Prayer Group—Zoom
- 10:30 Staff Meeting—Congregational Care Office
- 3:00 Adult Discipleship Committee—Library
- 5:15 Officer Training—Room 208
- 6:00 Children's Ministry Team—Room 210
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal—Choir Room

### Thursday, December 14

- 2:00 Stephen Ministry—Ryan Hall
- 6:00 Children's Corner Christmas Program—Sanctuary
- 7:00 Presbyterian Women Night Circle—Ryan Hall

### Friday, December 15

- 10:00 Grief Support Group—Ryan Hall
- 5:00 Youth Lock-Out—San Antonio

### Saturday, December 16

- 9:00 Pop Up Market—Family Life Center Parking Lot
- 12:00 HOPES Kitchen—Family Life Center
- 5:00 Kid's Night Out—Family Life Center
- 6:30 Fellowship 1 Christmas Party—Schlechte Home

### Sunday, December 17

- 8:30 Worship, Cantata—Sanctuary
- 9:30 Fellowship Coffee Time—Ryan Hall
- 9:45 Adult Sunday School—Ryan Hall, Room 208
- 9:45 Children's Sunday School—Room 210
- 9:45 Parents' Fellowship Hour—Room 206
- 11:00 Worship, Cantata—Sanctuary & Live Streamed

Building a Community of Disciples Growing Towards  
God-centered Worship  
Christ-centered Service  
Spirit-led Lives



## First Presbyterian Church

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