



First Presbyterian  
Church | Kerrville



December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Cantata Sunday

## 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

Overture of Joy

## ANTHEM

A Weary World Rejoices

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We gather to light the third candle of Advent.

**We kindle this light, receiving the joy of the Lord.**

How dare joy make its way into our dreary, despairing world?

**God has not abandoned us. God has come into this world to bring news of great joy to all who feel hopeless and afraid.**

Let us unite our voices with the joyful song of Mary:

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day, all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's Name.**

## ADVENT PRAYER

Everlasting God, we depend on your everlasting joy. Call us to sing a new song. Remind us to dance in the rain. Fill us with laughter and stories of hope. You are in our world, working for our good, and that is a reason to rejoice. Help us see your favor and great love in our lives. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Jeremiah 30:17-19

## PRAYER

## ANTHEM

Redeem, Restore, Renew

## SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:2,6

## PRAYER

## ANTHEM

Arise! Rejoice!

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, the stories of your faithfulness abound,  
yet we confess that we do not trust in your provision and care for us.  
We go our way, longing for joy and peace but not recognizing our  
need for communion with you and our neighbors.  
God, restore us to the joy of our common life in you.**  
*Silent Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## †RESPONSE

Hymn 88

***O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way.***

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-31

PRAYER

ANTHEM

Come, Graceful Rose

FOURTH READING

Luke 2:4-7

PRAYER

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

HOMILY

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia

SILENT REFLECTION

FIFTH READING

Luke 2:8-14

PRAYER

ANTHEM

Sing, O Heavens

SIXTH READING

Matthew 1:1-2, 9-10

PRAYER

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

Beautiful Star

†RESPONSE

Hymn 151

***O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!***

SEVENTH READING

John 1:1-15

PRAYER

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE

Let Earth Receive Her King!

*Richard Elliott*



## Thank You for Serving Today

### WORSHIP LEADERS

Jasiel Hernandez Garcia, Susan Montoya, the Presley and Lewis Families, the Amann and Barnes Families, Betty Clyburn, Emily McAllister, Sabrina Adrian, Seth Lafler, Bill Swart, Wes Lane

### USHERS

8:30-Bill and Pam Cooper, Susan Junkin

11:00-Linda and Steve Phillips, Sue Bratcher, Mike Brunsvold, Mike and Nancy Wilson

### 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.fpckerrville.org](http://www.fpckerrville.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  
Emily McAllister, Dir. Of Family Ministry  
Alysse O'Brien, Children's Music Director  
Scott Russell, Children's Corner Director  
Ann Reynolds, YES Center Director  
Shannon Tuschak, Care Coordinator  
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://fpckerville.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. 13th, we have received 125 pledges totaling \$681,050.00. 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 cover artwork is titled "*Visible*" by Scott Erickson.



## Let Us Pray

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



## Welcome, Visitors!

For more information about our church and its missions, visit our website at [www.fpckerville.org](http://www.fpckerville.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.fpckerville.org](http://www.fpckerville.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.fpckerville.org](http://www.fpckerville.org) and click on "Calendar".

### 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 and Live Streamed

### Monday, December 18

- 2:00 Groff Memorial Service—Sanctuary
- 4:00 Budget and Finance—Room 204

### Tuesday, December 19

### Wednesday, December 20

- 9:00 Prayer Group—Zoom
- 10:30 Staff Meeting—Congregational Care Office
- 6:00 Young Adult Christmas Dinner—Mamacita's Restaurant

### Thursday, December 21

### Friday, December 22

### Saturday, December 23

- 12:00 HOPES Kitchen—Family Life Center

### Sunday, December 24

- 11:00 Family Worship Service—Sanctuary
- 7:00 Traditional Candlelight Service—Sanctuary

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



## First Presbyterian Church

800 Jefferson Street \* Kerrville, Texas 78028  
Phone (830) 257-3310 \* Fax (830) 257-3393  
[amartin@fpckerville.org](mailto:amartin@fpckerville.org) \* [www.fpckerville.org](http://www.fpckerville.org)

- **Special Worship Services:**

**Sunday, December 24**

**11:00am:** Family Worship Service with family friendly lessons and carols.

**7:00pm:** Traditional Candlelight Service featuring special music, lessons and carols.

- **Holiday Office Hours:**

**December 25— Closed**

**December 27—Close at Noon**

**December 28, 29, and January 1—Closed**

- **FPC Grief Support Group:** FPC Grief Support Group – Meets the 1st and 3rd Fridays of every month, 10:00 am in Ryan Hall. As the holidays approach, grief can impact our lives in many different ways. The path towards healing is never smooth or predictable, and connecting with others in a safe and confidential environment can lend support as we navigate this time. If you or someone you know has lost a loved one, we can help you through this difficult time, in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment. Our group is led by a skilled professional. Participants are encouraged to attend according to need, with no fixed time commitment or agenda. Please call Pastor Susan Montoya at the church office (830-257-3310) for more information.
- **Parent Youth Meeting:** We will meet on January 7 at 4:00 pm in the FLC youth room. At this meeting we will discuss the upcoming events for our youth program and confirmation.
- **New Sunday School Classes Beginning January 7:**

**Friendship Bible Study, Ryan Hall-** Romans, a Continuation - Most Biblical scholars would agree that Paul's letter to the young Christian community in Rome is the apex of Paul's theological thought. Scholars also seem to agree that the high point, or summit, of this theological thought process is contained in what was later labeled as "Chapter 8." As one Bible study leader once expressed, a good way to better understand Christian thought is to read Romans 8, eight times! We will therefore resume our study of the Book of Romans with Chapter 8. We are the Friendship Bible Study, where no one is a stranger for long. We will gather in Ryan Hall at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for coffee fellowship, with class beginning at 9:45. Please consider joining us.

**Highlights from the Gospel of John, led by Eldon Sheffer, Room 204:** The gospel of John is thought to have been written last, written as an eye witness, and containing a large amount of material found in no other gospel. During this seven week class we will consider passages from this unique document seeking new insights into the person of Jesus. As recorded in this gospel, Jesus said: I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the good shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth, and the life; I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener; I am the vine, you are the branches. While the class will move through the gospel in sequence, individuals are encouraged to come to any individual class as they are able.

**Return of The Wired Word—2024, led by Sonny Payne,**

**Room 208:** For those of you who have not encountered The Wired Word before now, it is a curriculum of study relating scripture to current news events. Every week the WW editorial board prepares a Christian based interdenominational study guide that they distribute on Thursdays for the following Sunday School classes. We have offered this class at FPC in the past, but not in recent years. If you would like to participate, please send me your email address and I will add you to the class distribution list. You may learn more by visiting the website at [thewiredword.com](http://thewiredword.com) or by contacting me at 830-343-7108 or [buckwood.sonny@gmail.com](mailto:buckwood.sonny@gmail.com).