

December 9, 2018
9:00 a.m.

Order of Service

GATHERING

As followers of Jesus
we will love the Lord our God
with all our hearts,
with all our souls
and with all our minds.
And we will love our neighbors
as ourselves and serve them
in the name of Christ.
Matthew 22:37, 39

*Love God
Follow Jesus
Serve in Spirit*

*Please sign the Friendship Register
found at the end of the pew and
pass it on as you prepare for
worship. Visitors are urged to leave
their address, to receive a letter of
welcome from the pastor and be
placed on the newsletter email list.*

*Please stand at the asterisks.

PRELUDE

Carol-Meditation

— John Barr

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MEDITATION

Robert & Lynne Harding

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Pastor: God has promised us a new creation

People: where righteousness will be at home.

Pastor: Blessed is the Holy One our God,

People: who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.

All: Let us prepare for the coming of Christ!

*HYMN

Prepare the Way

#13

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, always with us, always coming among us: we confess that we do not know how to fully prepare for your Advent, for your coming among us once again. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promises of your coming kingdom; and we get distracted in all the busyness we make of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of both Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of the child born for us. Prepare our hearts to receive your joy! Though Christ we pray; Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anthem Text:

Christmas is coming,
 let the church bells ring!
 People celebrating
 the birth of a King.
 Shouting Hosanna
 till the heavens ring.
 Christmas is coming,
 let the church bells ring!
 Christmas is coming,
 Mary's baby boy bringing us a
 message of comfort and joy.
 Glory hallelujah,
 what a wonderful thing.
 Christmas is coming,
 let the church bells ring!
 Glory filled the heavens.
 Music filled the night.
 Shepherds heard the angels sing.
 Wisemen saw the light.
 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!

Doxology

Praise God, from whom
 all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures
 here below;
 Praise Him above,
 ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son,
 and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***GLORIA PATRI**

#579

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
 World without end. Amen. Amen.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Constitutional Questions of Deacons Elect
 Questions to the Congregation

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as
 ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconcilia-
 tion: give us courage and discipline to follow where your serv-
 ants rightly lead us; that together we may declare your wonderful
 deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the
 Lord of all.**

Laying on of Hands and Prayer—All Ordained Elders and
 Deacons, may come forward for the Laying on of Hands.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, our hope and our strength, by the power of
 your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your
 Word, so that we may see glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
 Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 3:1-6

Page 778
 Page 834

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

Christmas is Coming

— Joel Raney

SERMON

Are We Prepared for Peace? Rev. Ann Conklin

RESPONDING

***HYMN OF AFFIRMATION** (Tune of "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear")

O God of Peace, You Sent Us John

O God of peace, you sent us John who called, "Prepare the way!"

He challenged all we counted on and promised your new day.

He cried out in the wilderness and made the pathway straight.

He filled the valleys, smoothed the roads,

and taught us how to wait.

If you are hospitalized or confined at home due to illness, call the church office at 480-964-8606 to let us know. Please note: If you are in the hospital, let us know what your room number is. In order to comply with new stricter government regulations to protect patients' privacy, hospitals refuse to provide any information, including room numbers.

Sanctuary Flowers are a way for you to recall a special person or event in your life. Flowers are available at a cost of \$50 or you may notify the church office of your desire to furnish your own flowers. You may take the flowers that Sunday or leave them for the Deacons to deliver. If you are interested in providing flowers, fill out the form found at the Kiosk or in the office. After completion, please return it to the office, along with a check and instructions.

Coffee time will follow the service.
 The hosts today are Jeanne Partida, Jack & Yvonne Oliver.
 Baked goods are provided by Alice Schlak & Mildred Kimbrough.

Activities for the Week of December 9, 2018

Today, 12/9	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 11:00a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Christian Education HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse Service, Fellowship Hall
Monday, 12/10	7:00p.m.	Eve Circle, Parlor
Tuesday, 12/11	9:30a.m. 12:00p.m. 1:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Deborah Circle, Bruening Home Lydia Circle, Parlor Rachel Circle, Mills Home Scouts, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, 12/12	7:30a.m. 8:30a.m. 5:00p.m. 6:00p.m. 6:15p.m. 7:00p.m.	Men's Fellowship, Fellowship Hall Dave's Crew Wednesday WRAP Music Sunday Rehearsal, Sanctuary Adult Bible Study Choir, Choir Room
Thursday, 12/13	6:30p.m.	Dei Gloriam, Bell Room

Upcoming Events

December 16	Music Sunday (in both services)
December 18	Dei Gloriam at Zoolights
December 24	Christmas Eve Office Closed 5:30p.m. — Family Service 8:30p.m. — Traditional Service
December 25	Merry Christmas!
December 30	One 10:00 service featuring Matsiko World Orphan Choir, Fellowship Hall
12/31 & 1/1	Office closed
January 7	Deacons meet
January 25 & 26	FPC hosts Presbytery

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Pastor (ext 102).....	Ann Conklin
Director of Music Ministries (ext 103).....	Mark Ramsey
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Buildings Manager (ext 104).....	Don Krill
Bookkeeper (Business@fpcmesa.org).....	Rob Kjar
Preschool Director (480-835-7877).....	Shiloh Murillo
Pastor Emeritus.....	James R. Bruening
Pastor Emeritus.....	Robert Martz
***must designate: Pastor, Music, Education, Pubs, Business, Buildings or Preschool	