

December 23, 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.*

PRELUDE *Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol* – Gerald Near

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT MEDITATION Dave & Renita Jurgensen

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Look! The young woman is with child;

People: she will call her child Emmanuel, for God is with us.

Pastor: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

People: and he will be the shepherd of peace.

Pastor: The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

People: To God be the glory forever!

*HYMN *O Lord, How Shall We Meet You?* #11

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of glory, when we consider our lives, we must confess a mixture of giving and selfishness, of preparation and procrastination, of waiting on the Lord twisted into an endless rush of activity. Surely we miss the mark of Advent. Forgive our frantic ways and our misplaced efforts. Help us to trust in you: the One who brings salvation, who supplies strength, who hears our prayers, and accepts our praise. Let it be with us according to your will, O God; Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***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.

***Please stand at the asterisks.**

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness comes to us in sweeping revelations and in tiny signs of hope. Kindle our hearts, that we might be a hopeful people. Keep us from growing weary of waiting, for the time is drawing near. Open our hearts to receive you, O Lord; Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:3-8

Page 757

Luke 1:39-45

Page 831

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know?
Jan Peterson, Soprano

– Lowry/Greene

SERMON

Love Actually

Rev. Ann Conklin

RESPONDING

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

(Tune of "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling")

Mary Heard the Angels Message

– Carolyn Gillette

Mary heard the angel's message: "Greetings, Mary, favored one!
Do not fear, for God is with you; You will one day bear God's Son."
Filled with questions, filled with wonder, She proclaimed her faith in God:
"May it be as you have spoken; I'm the servant of the Lord!"

When she heard her cousin's greeting, Mary's heart was filled with joy,
So she sang of God's great blessing Promised in her baby boy:
"God has looked on me with favor, So I sing this song of praise.
God has worked, the proud to scatter... Humble, hungry ones to raise."

Mary heard the shepherds' story, Words she treasured with delight.
Then an angel gave the warning: "Flee with Jesus in the night!"
Mary wondered in her anguish, What would be the pain he'd know?
Fleeing then, she held him closely... One day she would let him go.

Mary heard, "Who is my mother? Who is in my family?
All who do my Father's bidding — All these ones belong to me."
Later, on the hill she heard him, "Woman, see your new son there!
You, my friend, behold your mother!" So Christ formed new bonds of care.

When they learned the Lord had risen, Christ's disciples met to pray.
Mary was among the faithful, Bound in love, on Jesus' Way.
God, we see her, Christ's disciple, Loving, learning, serving, too.
Like her, may we hear and answer, "We, your servants, live for you."

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*CREED ~ adapted from the Scots Confession

We believe in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

We believe that when the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman by means of the Holy Spirit. And so was born the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

Thanks be to God for this holy, miraculous birth and unending gift of love. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High* – arr. Howard Helvey
Sanctuary Choir, Pianists Barbara Walker, Bea Towe

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *Adeste Fidelis*)

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* #2

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE (Tune: *Mueller*)

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever,
And love me, I pray; Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

POSTLUDE *Gloria in Excelsis* – Philip Moore

Offertory Text:

Ding! Dong! merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing; Ding! Dong!
verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing. *Gloria! Hosanna in Excelsis!*
E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swinging,
and i-o, i-o, i-o by priest and people singing.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you, dutifully prime, your matin chime,
ye ringers! *Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria!*

Liturgist: Michael Gerlach

Greeters: Jan Montgomery and Jeanne Partida

Ushers: Thank you to Bill Anderson's team. Next week: Dennis Sitzler's team.

Special Music: This week's special music is being offered by Soprano Jan Peterson. Next Sunday's special music will include the Matsiko World Orphan Choir. We'll have one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The complete music schedule is available at fpc-mesa.org/worship-planning.

Sound Booth: Bob Schulz

Nursery Workers: Thank you to Linda Hayball.

Activity bags for children are available at the back of the sanctuary. These are for use during worship.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the Information Kiosk by the main doors of the sanctuary to learn more about the church's programs.

Audio assistance is available for those who may be unable to adequately hear the service. Please see an usher for assistance.

Check the bulletin boards in the church office for information regarding events or opportunities in the life of the church and the community.

Bulletin Recycling. If you do not want to take your bulletin home, please take it to the recycling basket at the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer Chain: If you or a family member need special prayers, email prayer@fpcmesa.org or call the church office. If the prayer request is for a friend, you must first have *permission from that friend* to make the request public on the Prayer Chain.

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.

Activities for the Week of December 23, 2018

Today, 12/23	9:00a.m. 10:15a.m. 11:00a.m.	Worship, Sanctuary Christian Education HolyGrounds CoffeeHouse Service, Fellowship Hall
Monday, 12/24	5:30p.m. 8:30p.m.	Christmas Eve — Office closed Family Service, Sanctuary Traditional Service, Sanctuary
Tuesday, 12/25		<i>Merry Christmas!</i>
Wednesday, 12/26	7:30a.m. 8:30a.m. 6:00p.m. 7:00p.m.	Men's Fellowship, Fellowship Hall Dave's Crew First Ringers, Bell Room Choir, Choir Room
Thursday, 12/27	6:30p.m.	Dei Gloriam, Bell Room
Friday, 12/28	7:00p.m.	Scouts, Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Events

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

**Coffee time will follow the service.
The hosts today are Deborah Rosen, Dale Gibson
& Marie-Claire Cordray.
Baked goods are provided by Mary Jean Maedche & Ron Wright.**

First Presbyterian Church	
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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: Passtor, Music, Education, Pubs, Business, Buildings or Preschool	