

December 15, 2019
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*

PRELUDE

— arr. Michael Bedford

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

INTROIT

Angels We Have Heard on High

— arr. Ramsey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Heaven and Nature Sing

— Chuck Bell

[Each line will be sung by the leader and echoed by the congregation.]

Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
Sing a new song to the Lord
Lift your hearts with gratitude
and Joy,
Unabashed Joy

Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
Your steadfast love and faithfulness
Is ever present in our lives
with Joy,
Unabashed Joy

Choir Reader: Let the voices of all people blend in harmony,
In unison let the people magnify the Beloved!

We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Unabashed Joy

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If you are visiting with us, we welcome you and encourage you to sign the visitor card in the pew. Visitors are urged to leave their address, to receive a letter of welcome from the pastor and be placed on the newsletter email list, if desired.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

All: God of great joy, as we light these candles and continue our Advent journey, the season of hopeful waiting, shine the light of your hope, love, and joy into our hearts and into our world. Fill us with your joy so that we might delight in you! Amen.

*HYMN

Prepare the Way

#13

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you are always with us; yet always coming among us. We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your advent. We have forgotten how to trust in miracles and we too often ignore the promises of your realm. We get distracted by all of the busyness of the season and forget to focus on you, Lord God. Forgive us, we pray.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and discover again the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to help us make ready for his coming. Through Christ we pray; 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.

PROCLAMATION

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, you who are our beginning and our end, bless our impatience, strengthen our faith, and while we await the fulfillment of your promises, grant us joy in receiving your Word; Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANTHEM

O Holy Night
Heavenly Harmonies

– Adolph Adam

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:45b-55

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SERMON

Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy

Rev. Ann Conklin

RESPONDING

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Paraphrase of Luke 1:46-58 (Magnificat)

– Rory Cooney

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one
who waits. You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west
shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears,
for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end
of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and those who would for you yearn, You will show your might,
put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone
will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn; These are tables spread,
ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember
who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from
the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forbears
heard is the promise that holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod
be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** ~ 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 Mess-
iah 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 *Breath of Heaven* – Amy Grant/Chris Eaton
Jan Peterson, Soprano

***DOXOLOGY** *We Are An Offering* – Dwight Liles

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.

Liturgist: Kyle Harding

Greeters: Dave and Gretchen
Frederick

Ushers: Thank you to Gary
Marshall's team. Next week: Bill
Anderson's team.

Special Music: This week's spe-
cial music is being offered by
Heavenly Harmonies and Sopra-
no Jan Peterson. Next Sunday's
special music will include all of
our FPC Choirs in Music Sunday,
"O Come, All Ye Faithful". The
complete music schedule is availa-
ble at [fpcmesa.org/worship-
planning](http://fpcmesa.org/worship-
planning).

Praise Band: Erin Skarphol,
vocals; Karen Rudin, rhythm
guitar/vocals; Mark Ramsey,
piano/vocals; Paul Soderquist,
drums

Sound Booth: Bob Schulz

Activity bags for children are
available at the back of the sanc-
tuary. 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 ade-
quately hear the service. Please
see an usher for assistance.

**Check the bulletin boards in the
church office** for information re-
garding events or opportunities
in the life of the church and the
community.

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.

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.

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.

All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to You, we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
We lift our lives up to You, we are an offering,
we are an offering.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* #27

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE — Marsha Jean Moors-Charles, arr. Caleb Collins

We're Gonna Bring Joy to the World

We're gonna bring joy to the world, hope to the people.
We're gonna give love that's for everyone—unconditionally!
We're gonna make peace in our world,
God's voice through us be heard.

As we look to one another, a glimpse of holy we might see!

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POSTLUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come* — arr. Paul Manz

**Coffee time will follow the service.
The hosts today are Dennis & Darlene Sitzler.
Baked goods are provided by Verna Green.**

First Presbyterian Church

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