

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *In The Bleak Midwinter*

Call to Worship

Leader: If life was a home, then we would pray—may love be the foundation.

All: May God be the cornerstone.

Leader: May the Spirit be the windows — ushering in light.

All: And may hope be the walls — holding us together.

Leader: In this hour of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

All: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

Leader: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Lighting of Second Sunday of Advent Candle

A: As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,

B: we gather together around a candle of peace.

A: The home we long for is a home that knows peace —

B: peace that rests between us and our grief,

A: peace around our anxiety,

B: peace between us and our self-criticism,

A: peace amidst our relationships,

B: peace at the core of our being,

A: peace hovering through and in our world.

B: The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

A: So today we light the candle of peace — as a reminder and as a prayer.

Opening Song *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

Verse 1 Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace

Streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above

Praise the mount, I'm fixed up, on it, Mount of Thy re- deeming love

Verse 2 I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me

I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free

Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home

Now Your grace is always with me, And I'll never be a- lone

Chorus Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace

Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing

Come, Thou Fount, come, Thou King; Come, Thou precious Prince of Peace

Hear Your bride, to You we sing, come, Thou Fount of our blessing

Verse 3 O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be

Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love

Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a- bove

REPEAT CHORUS

REPEAT VERSE 2

CCLI Song # 4775010 | John Wyeth | Robert Robinson | Thomas Miller © 2005 Gateway Create Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 3086733

Call to Confession (*leader*)

In our scripture passage for today, Zechariah, a new father, speaks to his new born son, John the Baptist, for the very first time. I want you to imagine yourself in his shoes . . . What would you say to a newborn sleeping in your arms? What would you want them to know on their very first day? What would feel important? I imagine that all of you would speak words of love. It's impossible not to speak words of love when you're holding a baby, and yet as we grow up, that skill tends to become harder for us to practice. So let us return to our foundation — to words of love, starting with love for ourselves. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Holy God, when John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions.

Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: "You are loved; you are forgiven."

That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply.

There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming the good news:

All: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Children's Moment

Children ages 3 through Kindergarten may go out to Wee Ones' Worship after the Children's Moment.

Pass the Peace (*leader*)

The Peace of Christ be with you!

Friends, the peace of Christ be with you! You are encouraged to pass the peace to neighbors by waves and/or air hugs. If you are worshipping with us online, we encourage you to text a friend and pass the peace.

Song *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

Verse 1 O Come, o come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear

Chorus 1 Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel

Shall come to thee, O Israel

Verse 2 O come thou wisdom from on high, Who orders all things far and nigh

To us, the path of knowledge show, And teach us in Your ways to go

REPEAT CHORUS 1

CHORUS 2, repeated, by the Praise Band

REPEAT CHORUS 1

CHORUS 2 by the Praise band

Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel

Shall come to thee oh Israel

Scripture *Luke 1:57-80* When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John." ⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him. ⁶³ After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God. ⁶⁵ All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. ⁶⁶ All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him. ⁶⁷ John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, ⁶⁸ "Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. ⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house, ⁷⁰ just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. ⁷¹ He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. ⁷² He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³ the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham. He has granted ⁷⁴ that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes, for as long as we live. ⁷⁶ You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸ Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, ⁷⁹ to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace." ⁸⁰ The child grew up, becoming strong in character. He was in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

Sermon *Close to Home: Laying the Foundation*

Call for Offering *(leader)*

Family of faith, it does not take long to see that we are not home yet. There are people who are hungry, oceans that are polluted, churches that are fading, walls that are growing. We are clearly not home yet. So until we reach that promised day, until we make it home, giving what we can to make a better world matters. When we give our tithes and our offerings we help build God's home here. So with hopeful hearts, let us give.

Offertory Song *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

To give online, if you prefer (scan QR code)



Prayers of The People and The Lord's Prayer

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... **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.**

Benediction *(leader)*

Leader: As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick.

All: Open your doors to others.

Leader: Seek sanctuary.

All: Be brave enough to go home by another way.

Leader: And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed — so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation — God, Spirit, and Son — go in peace.

All: Amen.

Postlude *Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

Music The Praise Band

Director of Children's Ministry Todd Bowman

The Leader of New Stone Gathering Amy Bowman

Worship Leader The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.

PERMISSIONS: Scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible, retrieved from "BibleGateway.com: A searchable online Bible in over 150 versions and 50 languages." www.biblegateway.com. The liturgy is reprinted from Book of Common Worship, copyright © 2018 Westminster John Knox Press. Reprinted by permission from the Book of Common Worship, © 2018 John Knox Press. All Rights reserved. Hymns and Songs are reprinted by permission of CCLI under license #3086733. CCLI Annual License, Size C with Premium SongSelect. #3086733, expires March 31, 2022. CCLI Streaming License #CSPL099591, expires February 28, 2022.

RECEIVED INTO THE ARMS OF CHRIST

Nancy Law (d. 11/23) and Terry Sinclair (d. 11/26) were received into the arms of Christ. Nancy was received into FPC membership on October 9, 1989. Terry was received into FPC membership on December 29, 1974. Please keep Nancy's and Terry's families in your prayers. It is in grief that we mourn, and in hope that we rejoice in the resurrection to new life in Jesus Christ.

TODAY

A special invitation: you are invited to hear our own Morgan Myers Brower's last recital in her work to earn her doctorate from S.U. Her work for this degree is titled "A Model for 21st Century American Opera: A Study of Select Operas by Evan Mack and Joshua McGuire." The recital is this Sunday, December 5, at 3:00pm in the Goodson Chapel Recital Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Offering envelopes are available to pick up at the table next to the Youth Bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary.
- If you have recently made a stock transfer or IRA Distribution or are intending to do so, please notify Jennifer in the church office. This will help ensure that we credit your gift accurately. *And*, if you have not turned in your pledge card in the offering plate or to the church office, please do so as soon as you can. Extras are available in the pews or in the common areas of the church. Please contact the office for assistance.
- We are accepting poinsettia dedications for the Christmas Eve bulletin. The cost per dedication is \$9 (in honor of and/or in memory of). You can submit the dedication(s) and payment securely online at fpcwinc.org/poinsettia or locate at church a form to submit with payment in the offering plate (be sure your payment is designated). The deadline for dedications with payment is December 17.
- CCAP is asking us to purchase a \$25 gift card for our community's needy youth. If you purchase a \$25 gift card, turn it in the collection plate or to the church office. You may also consider making a donation to the church and mark it CCAP youth and we will purchase a card for you.
- *Close to Home* Adult Sunday School at 9:45am in Loudoun Hall. Dec. 5: Laying the Foundation, Luke 1:57-80 w/Pastor Dan | Dec. 12: A Home for All, Luke 3:1-18 w/Pastor Amanda | Dec. 19: Seeking Sanctuary, Luke 1:39-55 w/Pastor Dan.
- A Special Christmas Recital: Please join us for "Songs Joy: An Afternoon of Christmas Favorites" with MiKayla Lynn Hatfield and Amy Bowman 2:30pm on December 12. MiKayla has the opportunity to attend the esteemed program American Institute of Musical Studies in Gratz, Austria in the summer of 2022. The recital is to serve as a benefit that will aid in MiKayla's program tuition and travels. Donations welcome, but not required. Join us for a wonderful afternoon filled with Christmas music and Christmas joy!
- Over the past couple of years, we have replaced the heating and cooling systems in the older part of our building on the north side of our campus. An additional project will involve replacing the windows in the older part of our building over several years. The current windows are single pane and highly energy inefficient. The new windows will be double paned. Also, the maintenance costs of the older windows have been considerable on a year to year basis. The window replacement project will cost about \$250k-\$300k total. At present, we have received a generous gift of \$70k toward the project. The plan is to do one side of the building each year until the project is complete. If you are in a position to make an additional gift to the church at year's end, please consider making a gift to this project. The old windows need replacing. The new windows will improve the exterior aesthetics of our building, be relatively maintenance-free, and be highly energy efficient. *Thank you. The Facilities Council and the Session.*
- Jennifer White is away: Friday, December 10; Thursday, December 16 through Monday, December 20.
- Andrea Barron will telework the afternoons of December 22-24 due to her children's school schedule.
- The church office will be closed on Monday, December 27 and Thursday-Friday, December 30 & 31.
- Announcements for the eNotice/bulletin for Sundays, December 26 and January 2, are due by Tuesday, December 21.
- If you are delivering in-person to the church office any last offering for FY 2021, the deadline is Wednesday, December 29 by NOON. Any offering sent in the mail must be postmarked by December 31 (consider mailing any last giving for the year early in case of USPS delays).