



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16 EAST FIFTH STREET
ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

Website: www.fpc-rr.org

Church Office: (252) 537-4018 firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com

Rev. Sandoval: (252) 676-9857 fprrminister@gmail.com

[To text Rev. Sandoval use (336) 420-0388]

Church Office Hours: Wednesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 29, 2019

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A children's nursery is available upon request. Please see an usher to assist you)

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* German

****CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Hope has come—

All: awakening us to new possibilities.

One: Peace has come—

All: inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.

One: Joy has come—

All: turning our hearts from fear to wonder.

One: Love has come—

All: transforming our lives, transforming our world.

One: We have come—

All: amazed and humbled by God's grace, to worship the newborn king!

****OPENING PRAYER**

One: Illumine the shadows of our lives with your light—which the most persistent darkness cannot overcome—and open our hearts to receive your grace.

All: Amen.

****HYMN 134** *Joy to the World*

****CALL TO CONFESSION**

****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, you are the Light of the World. Yet, too often, we shroud your light with our indifference. There is much we must confess: When we turn a blind eye to suffering, forgive us. When we are silent in the face of injustice, forgive us.

When we choose comfort over compassion, forgive us.

When we neglect to offer grace and love, forgive us.

Gracious God, you entered into our broken world and made a home among the desperate and despairing. Give us eyes to see you in the faces of those whose vulnerability frightens us. Give us the will to care for our neighbors in need.

****KYRIE ELEISON**

Hymnal No. 576

****TIME FOR SILENCE**

(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)

****ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

****THE PEACE**

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

****GLORIA PATRI**

Hymnal 581

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mike Knudson, liturgist

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 1:7-12, 15-17, 22

But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, ‘Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.’ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and

the other Puah, ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 1:15-16

For now I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, says the LORD; and they shall come and all of them shall set their thrones at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its surrounding walls and against all the cities of Judah. And I will utter my judgements against them, for all their wickedness in forsaking me; they have made offerings to other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

ANTHEM

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

TIME WITH YOUNG CHRISTIANS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN 144

In the Bleak Midwinter

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Remember God's message: Do not be afraid! Therefore we pray with hope and joy. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With hope and joy, we pray for the church . . . Help us to follow our gentle Savior and Lord, who leads his children through suffering to the peace and glory of your holy realm. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With hope and joy, we pray for the earth . . . Join our voices with the hymn of all creation, so that we may sing with heaven and earth the beauty and glory of your name. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With hope and joy, we pray for all nations . . . Listen to those who weep for their children, victims of poverty, famine, and war. Do not let their cries go unanswered. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With hope and joy, we pray for this community . . . Watch over those who are far from home, and teach us to show hospitality and care for refugees and strangers among us. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With hope and joy, we pray for loved ones . . . Strengthen those who are weak or suffering; support and sustain them in times of trial. Help them to put their trust in you. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

One: We ask these things with joy, O God, confident in the knowledge of your goodness; and we ask these things with hope, knowing that our redeemer is here—for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose holy name we pray as He taught us, Our Father ...

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnbook p. 35

CHORAL PRAYER

Amen

Schubert

GIVING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

****DOXOLOGY**

Hymn No. 144, verse 4

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him; give my heart.*

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Lord see the offerings we place before you and hear the pledges of service we make in our prayers.

All: All in the heavens and on the earth is yours, and of your own we give you.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

****HYMN 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

****CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

****CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

(refrain)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

WELCOME !

If this is your first time at First Presbyterian Church, we thank you for choosing to spend some time with us in worship.

If you have questions about us, or what we believe, you can talk to Rev. Sandoval after the service.

If you are just curious about us, we encourage you to take a welcome brochure with you. You can also check us out on the web at: www.fpc-rr.org.

If you feel that you have found a church home here and would like to join, that is wonderful! You can transfer your membership from another church or simply profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Talk to Reverend Sandoval after the service to make arrangements for joining.

In any event, be sure to fill out the friendship pad and include your email address. We'd love the opportunity to keep you informed about the wonderful things we are doing here at FPC.

THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Class of 2019

Jeff Dillard
Denise Hackenburg
John Shives
Marie Anderson

Class of 2020

Jimmy Bryant
Nancy Crowe
Mary Shelby
Wally Spragins

Class of 2021

Jack Kiger
Mike Knudson
Jim Small
Pet Spears

WORLD MISSIONS

Our church supports the missionary work of Larry and Inge Sthreshley in the Congo, and the Rev. Donald Marsden, Frontier Fellowship.

OTHER SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Sunday School meets at 9:45 am for adults.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The morning CIRCLE meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parlor, and an evening CIRCLE meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building. Tammy Spragins and Judith Clary are the Moderators of the Presbyterian Women.

PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool Program for two-year-olds meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 am. Three-year-olds meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-11:00 am or 12:00-2:30 pm.

Twos and Threes are taught by Leesa Daughtry and Shannon Knight.

Four year old classes meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and are taught by Susan Gaylor and Becky Faison. Classes are 8:30-11:30 am and 12:30-3:30 pm.

Contact the church office for further information.

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Jim Allen and Jimmy Bryant are the Co-President's of the Presbyterian Men. Sunday morning breakfast meetings are held periodically.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Sandoval, Pastor
Tammy Spragins, Administrative Assistant
Denise Hackenburg, Choir Director
Nick Stephenson, Organist/Choral Accompanist