

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE *(all sing)* 178

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

GIVING THANKS TO GOD

In grateful response to all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ, we continue our worship as we present our tithes and offerings.

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

Brothers and sisters, the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have the opportunity to share out of our abundance. We will now receive the morning offering.

OFFERTORY

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

The Wexford Carol

* DOXOLOGY *(to the tune of O Tannenbaum)*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
in every generation.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below,
the source of our salvation.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,**

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration!

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(unison)*

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world. You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage. You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears. You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be used so that many others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE

* CHRISTMAS HYMN 199 *Carol at the Manger*

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION *(all sing twice)*

Go now in peace; go now in peace! May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRAYS FOR:

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS: Tom Copple Family, Garry & Roberta Grau, Peggy Burger, Brenda & Robert Long.

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS : Johnathan Roberson's family, Chrissy and Yenesia. Mavis Whitten's great niece, Kacie McDaniel. FPC friend, John Marks. Tina Zarate friend of Pam Davidson. Friends of Vicki Ball, Tom & Jenny Hines. FPC Nursery teacher, Lupe Yanez. Friends of Aislinn King, Carol Scarborough. FPC Scholar Singer Gaby Jaime's grandparent, Joe Garcia. Paul Vega, a friend of Yolanda Garcia's son. Laura Nurse, daughter of Mary Massingill. Stephanie, a friend of Karen Copple.

Prayers for this church in transition.

Many thanks to the congregational care team for their ministries of care, including updating prayer concerns.

WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY:

Minister of Word and Sacrament:

Rev. Dr. Robert P. Reno, MDiv, Ph.D.

Liturgist: Liz Staggs

Director of Music: Alexa Brown

Pianist: Dr. Spencer Hartman

Flutist: Dr. Lisa Garner Santa

Cellist: Alejos Anaya

Handbells: Brianna Brady, Alexa Brown, Yiru Chen,
Madison Hanson, Madilyn Sallee

Women's Choir: Brianna Brady, Yiru Chen, Madison Hanson,
Gaby Jaime, Madilyn Sallee



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN LUBBOCK

ORDER OF WORSHIP

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2024 10:30 AM**

As a church family, we strive to connect people to God and to one another as we follow Christ.



ANGELS ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO THE SHEPHERDS, BY GOVERT FLINCK, 1639, THE LOUVRE, PARIS

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GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ARR. C. E. WALZ
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES JAY & LONNA MCKAY

WOMEN'S CHOIR: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

Children of God, we come, tired of waiting, burdened by the weight of watching. We surrender to God's holy "not yet," embracing the stillness. We come, and God-with-us is present in our longing.

*As we gather today, we remember the promised gifts of the Messiah. In the lighting of four candles, we set our gaze upon beacons that sustain us through sleepless nights and restless days.
We bear this light together.*

We call this candle Hope. *(Light the first candle.)*
We call this candle Peace. *(Light the second candle.)*
We call this candle Joy. *(Light the third candle.)*
We call this candle Love. *(Light the fourth candle.)*

WOMEN'S CHOIR: Come, let us bow before the God who made us, let every heart be opened to the Lord, for we are all the people of his hand.

Beloved Sustainer, in a world where care is mocked by the powerful, we stand as those who know the life-giving force of your love – for you, for our neighbors, for ourselves. You call us to be fierce in love, bold in tenderness. You enable us to be protectors of compassion, guardians of mercy in a world of need.

We thank you for your love. A love for your chosen people which includes all of us, which includes every part of us. May all of your people join Mary in saying "be it unto me" when you call, for you have done and continue to do great and marvelous things. When we lift our song of praise and promise it is a testament of our faith in your redeeming grace and a witness to your love in action – and may it always be so.

ALL SING: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.

* ADVENT HYMN 164
Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

CALL TO CONFESSION LIZ STAGGS
My friends, we cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*
**Lord, we have not kept watch for you.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for your coming.
Amen.** *(Please continue in silent prayer.)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON REV. ROBERT RENO
The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."
People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!
The peace of God be with you all.
And also with you!
Let us offer signs of peace and reconciliation.

* PASS THE PEACE

* GLORIA 135 *Gloria, Gloria, Gloria*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(unison)*
Creator God, you remind us that the darkness of ignorance and doubt cannot overcome your life-giving Word. May your Holy Spirit, who first inspired these words of Scripture, shine your light and once again awaken us to the hearing and living of this radiant truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FIRST LESSON MICAH 5: 2-5A

SECOND LESSON LUKE 1: 39-55

CHORAL MEDIATION *Mary's Song* RICHARD DONN

SERMON "Mamas and Babies" REV. ROBERT RENO

CHORAL MEDIATION GRUBER ARR. MCDEVITT
Silent Night

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(unison)*
We are righteous before God only by true faith in Jesus Christ. Even though our conscience accuses us of having grievously sinned against all God's commandments, of never having kept any of them, and of still being inclined towards all evil, nevertheless, without any merit of our own, out of sheer grace, God grants and credits to us the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if we have never sinned nor been sinners, and as if we have been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for us. All we need to do is accept this gift with a believing heart. When we say that through faith alone we are righteous, it is not because we please God by the worthiness of our faith. It is because only Christ's satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness make us righteous before God, and because we can accept this righteousness and make it ours in no other way than through faith. *from THE HEIDELBERG CATESHISM*

* CHRISTMAS CAROL 190
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

PASTORAL PRAYER