
WORSHIP SERVICE – FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Advent Music

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Even So, Lord Jesus Come* William J. Gaither

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Bruce Peters

*First Candle symbolizes **Hope** and is called the “Prophecy Candle”*

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ’s world of light

Pastor: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God’s strength and hope

Pastor: We come from a slumbering world

*All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls
and watch for the coming of Christ*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

INTROIT *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we know we ought to be watching for signs of Your presence and of Your Son’s coming. But we are so easily distracted by what is none of our business, like Peter worrying about the Master’s love for John; or even by what is our business, like Martha cooking up a storm in her kitchen; or by sheer fatigue, like the disciples in Gethsemane. Forgive our distraction, most patient Lord, and let this Advent season find us alert to Your presence and eagerly looking forward to the coming of Your Son, both at Christmas and at the end of time. (Silent Confession)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

***HYMN #265** *The First Noel*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Apostles’ Creed (Unison)

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.

*GLORIA PATRI

ANTHEM *Come, Child of Light* Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir; Sue Mesler, Flute

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER (debt/debtors)

OFFERTORY *The Shepherd’s Hymn* James Mansfield

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, we have given to You what is Yours. You entrust us with so much abundance; accept what we offer to You now as signs of our love for You and our desire to serve You. You alone are Lord of our lives. It is already so; make it so even more for us, day by day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #277** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-3; Isaiah 11:10; Romans 15:11-13

MESSAGE *The Root of Jesse* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

COMMUNION HYMN *A Communion Hymn for Christmas*

COMMUNION

***HYMN #269** *How Great Our Joy!*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Joyful Tidings* James Moffatt

*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth -- CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5054293

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer Focus

- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families.
- Pray for First Responders and Healthcare Workers.
- Pray for our church as we seek to be a flourishing church that makes disciples of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for Lisa Alfonsi, Eric Stone family, and Chasen and Katie Brokaw, missionaries we support in Peru, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.
- Pray for Crossroads, the mission for foster boys in Punta Gorda.
- Pray for Jesus Loves You Ministry for the homeless in Charlotte County.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

Those with Special Needs

Rachel Pfaender Kay Callahan Phyllis Ehrhardt

Lynn Lang Ron Sixt Rick Berner

Irene Csontos Barb Harris Dave Sifferd

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Marion Brown, *Truewood by Merrill, Port Charlotte*

NOTES

FLOWERS – The flowers are given today by Marjorie Haun in memory of her husband Ken.

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER – Available in the church foyer and on our website.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES – Available in the church office.

FLOWERS – May be sponsored for **\$37.50**. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer, listing the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

BULLETIN BOARD – Check out notes and messages of interest on the Bulletin Board in the church foyer.

PRAYER EMAIL LIST – If you would like to be on Pastor Barksdale’s prayer email list, email Pastor Barksdale at bmpullen3@fpcpunta.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the table in the back of the Sanctuary.

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (fpcpunta.org) by clicking the logo **YouTube**.

FELLOWSHIP TIME – Following the Worship Service, join us in Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and refreshments. You may bring cookies / treats to share!

Comparative Financial Operations / Performance

	November 2023	Year-to-Date
Tithes & Offerings	\$19,143.15	\$227,175.00
Cash Expenditures	<u>\$21,795.99</u>	<u>\$228,625.26</u>
Net	(\$2,652.84)	(\$1,450.26)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

GATHER FOR PRAYER – A prayer meeting is held Sundays at 6pm online. Please submit any prayer requests to first@fpcpunta.org.

BIBLE READING PLAN -- Reading guides and Bibles are in the church foyer.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS – We have Advent Devotionals available in the church foyer. Please take one for your family for daily reflections on the reason for the season.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – This year’s Christmas Offering will be used for Gift Cards for the Veterans Village. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Special Christmas Envelope on the table in the Church foyer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA – Remember a loved one this Christmas by giving a poinsettia to help decorate the church. Suggested donation is \$7 per poinsettia. Special envelopes are available on the table in the church foyer. **Please return your envelope by Monday, December 18th** in order to be listed in a special bulletin insert.

STAND IN THE GAP FUND – The purpose of this fund is to assist supported missionaries and ministries of our church, when they face unexpected financial burdens. To donate to this fund, please mark your gift as SITG.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards and Narrative Budgets are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary or in the church foyer. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2023 gets credited for 2023, please have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2023. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2024 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – Tuesday, December 5th at 10:00am – “Looking for a Queen” – Esther 2:1-4 and “Discovering ‘Diamonds in the Dust’” – Esther 2:5-7. Join us for our study of “Esther”, based on “Becoming a Woman of Beauty & Strength” by Elizabeth George. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Fellowship Hall. Call Kathy Belville at 508-733-0546 for more information. **All women are invited for study, fellowship, and refreshments.**

DONUTS AND DOCTRINE BIBLE STUDY – Because of Bethlehem, by Max Lucado. Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am (**December 6, 13, 20**) as we prepare for Advent. No one expected the Messiah to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it's like to be human. Because of Bethlehem, when we talk to him about tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace.

CHRISTMAS DINNER – Wednesday, December 6th, 5:00pm. Turkey and ham will be provided. Sign up in the church foyer to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – Friday, December 15th, 12:00pm – Please sign up and join us for lunch at LongHorn Steakhouse in Port Charlotte. **All ladies are invited!**

PUNTA GORDA CHRISTMAS TRADITION - Join us for a tour of the residential canals in Punta Gorda to view Christmas lights, displays and decorations on homes, boats, seawalls and docks. The cost is \$27/person. We will gather at **6:30pm on Friday, December 15th** at the Dock at Fishermen’s Village. **Sign up and pay by TODAY.**

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – Sunday, December 17th at 3:00pm, featuring *The Two Piano Group*. A free will offering will be taken – suggested donation is \$15.00.

MISSIONS SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT – A reminder that our trusted partners at World Renew are ECO’s go-to resource for long-term disaster relief.

<https://worldrenew.net/disaster-response-services-us/disaster-response-services>

JESUS LOVES YOU MINISTRY SPECIAL NEEDS – Shower Ministry (Wednesday mornings in our parking lot) – Please place “shower” items in the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations that we are supporting in 2022 in our church budget, please make checks payable to FPC and on the memo line write the name of the mission.

Antioch Partners – Stone Family (Guatemala) or Lisa Alfonsi (Peru)

Crossroads Hope Academy (Punta Gorda)

Jesus Loves You Ministry (Port Charlotte)

Misión Peniel (Immokalee)

Missionary Ventures (Chasen & Katie Brokaw – Nicaragua)

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

December 3rd to December 10th

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday in Advent Communion Sunday

10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)

11:30am Fellowship Time

6:00pm Prayer Meeting (Facebook)

Monday, December 4

1:00pm Worship Team

Tuesday, December 5

10:00am Women’s Bible Study

1:00pm Fellowship Team

Wednesday, December 6

10:00am Donuts & Doctrine

10:00am Jesus Loves You Shower Ministry

5:00pm Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 7

10:00am Game Fellowship

3:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday in Advent

10:30am Worship Service (Also Online)

11:30am Fellowship Time

6:00pm Prayer Meeting (Facebook)

First Presbyterian Church of Punta Gorda

25250 Airport Road Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)

Email: first@fpcpunta.org Website: fpcpunta.org

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 11:1-3; Isaiah 11:10; Romans 15:11-13

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,

the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
³ and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples;
the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

¹¹ And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him.”

¹² And again, Isaiah says, “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise
to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Readings

December 3	Acts 21:37-23:35
December 4	Acts 24:1-26:32
December 5	Acts 27:1-44
December 6	Acts 28:1-31
	Ephesians 1:1-2:22
December 7	Ephesians 3:1-5:14
December 8	Ephesians 5:15-6:23
	Colossians 1:1-23
December 9	Colossians 1:24-4:18



Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God.

We are glad to welcome each guest and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation.

December 3, 2023

10:30am

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

LITURGIST

Sam Cessna

USHERS

Kathy Belville, Roy Belville, Maria Greene, Patti MacDonald