

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas is Here

WELCOME

PRELUDE *The Coventry Carol* Robert J. Hughes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Bev Brady
Fifth Candle symbolizes Light and Purity and is called "Christ Candle"

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

*CAROL #267 *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

*RESPONSIVE READING - (Based on John 1:1-5, 10-17)

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

C: He was with God in the beginning.

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

P: Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made
that has been made.

C: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

P: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

**C: He was in the world, and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognize him.**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

P: He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

**C: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

P: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

**C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

P: From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing
after another.

**C: For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**

P: Oh, come, let us adore Him,

C: Christ the Lord!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Gloria Patri*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM *He is Born* French Carol / Jack Schrader
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY *He Shall Feed His Flock* G. F. Handel

SCRIPTURE *Luke 2:1-7*

MESSAGE *He is Born* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

*CAROL #281 *What Child Is This?*

COMMUNION *A Communion Hymn for Christmas*

*CANDLELIGHTING CAROL #253 *Silent Night! Holy Night!*

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE #243 *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *On This Glad Day* Chester Nordman

*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 and their Shower Ministry on Wednesdays at FPC.
- Pray for Misión Peniel, the mission that we support in Immokalee.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING – This year’s Christmas Offering will be used to purchase gift cards to the Veterans Village in Punta Gorda. Please use a Special Christmas Envelope.

YEAR-END GIVING – Please give your 2023 offerings/gifts to the church before December 31st. Donations received after the 31st will be applied to 2024 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES – Available on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name, let the office know. Thank you.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY – *Tuesday, January 2nd at 10:00am* – “*Preparing for an Audience with the King*” – *Esther 2:12-15*. Join us as we study “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 information. *All women are invited for study and fellowship.*

DONUTS & DOCTRINE – Bible Study led by Pastor Barksdale will resume on *Wednesday, January 10th, at 10:00am. All are welcome!*

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH – *Friday, January 5th, 12:00pm* – Please sign up and join us for lunch at St. Andrew’s Country Club in Punta Gorda. *All ladies are invited!*

ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES – *Sunday, January 21st at 3:00pm, featuring Cahal Dunne*. Tickets are available in the church office or call the ticket line at 941-625-4945.

MISIÓN PENIEL – Our next trip to Immokalee is *Friday, January 26th* – we will be helping at the Mission in the afternoon. Please meet at the church at 12:15pm. We will return about 8-9pm. *We need 12 people to go*, so please sign up in the church foyer.

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesday, February 7th at 5:00pm*. Barksdale and Bo will host a get-together dinner at their home. This will be in groups of eight, and you can sign up in the church foyer, or call/email the church office to reserve a night. There is no agenda, lesson, or study; just a time to get together for fellowship and to learn more about one another.

MISSIONS SUPPORT – If you would like to donate to the missionaries and organizations we support, 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 Mision Peniel Jesus Loves You Ministry

Missionary Ventures - Chasen & Katie Brokaw (Nicaragua)

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

STREAMING MINISTRY – Live stream our services on our website homepage (www.fcpunta.org) by clicking the logo *vimeo livestream*.

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31 – New Years Eve – Service at 10:30am

The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 1st

First Presbyterian Church – 25250 Airport Road – Punta Gorda, FL 33950

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

Email: first@fcpunta.org — Website: www.fcpunta.org



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

This evening 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.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

5:00pm

PASTOR

Dr. Barksdale Pullen

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Joan Byron

ORGANIST

Denny Ausman

OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN

Debbie Rostad

USHERS

Bev Brady, Sue Willecke, Don Willecke, Jeff Willecke