

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC Christmas Music

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Sleep Little Jesus* Roger C. Wilson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Ernie & DeAnn Lehman
Fifth Candle symbolizes Light and Purity and is called "Christ Candle"

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

***CAROL #251** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

***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 *Silent Night, Silent World* Albrecht/Althouse
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY *O Jesu, So Sweet* Franklin Ritter

SCRIPTURE *Matthew 1:21-23, Mark 10:45, John 3:16-17*

MESSAGE *Christ's Purpose* Pastor Barksdale Pullen

***CAROL #285** *O Holy Night!*

COMMUNION

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

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE #243** *Emmanuel*

POSTLUDE *Christmas Postlude on "In Dulci Jubilo"* G. Martin

*Please stand, if able Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #5043864

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 those who are recovering from Hurricane Ian.
- 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 given to the Veterans Village in Punta Gorda and Misión Peniel in Immokalee. Please use the Christmas Envelope in your Envelope Box or a Pew Envelope and designate your gift.

YEAR-END GIVING – Please give your 2022 offerings/gifts to the church before December 31st. Donations received after the 31st will be applied to 2023 giving. For gifts of stock, please call the church office.

2023 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 3rd at 10:00am* with Lesson 15 (James 3:13-18 “Defining True Wisdom”) of *Growing in Wisdom & Faith, a study of James* by Elizabeth George from her “A Woman After God’s Own Heart” series. 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 4th, at 10:00am*, beginning a study on the Bible Book of Job. *All are welcome!*

PULLEN UP A CHAIR – *Wednesdays, January 4th and February 1st at 5:00pm*. Barksdale and Bo will be hosting get-together dinners this winter 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 Misión 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@fpcpunta.org.

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

EVENTS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Sunday, December 25 and Sunday, January 1

10:30am Worship (Also Online)

The Church Office will be closed December 26th through January 2nd

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursday, December 29th at 4:30pm

First Presbyterian Church – 25250 Airport Road – Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-639-1959 (phone) 941-637-3763 (fax)

Email: first@fpcpunta.org — Website: www.fpcpunta.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, 2022

5:00pm

PASTOR	Dr. Barksdale Pullen
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Joan Byron
ORGANIST	Denny Ausman
OFFICE & WORSHIP ADMIN	Debbie Rostad
USHERS	Sharon Albright, Kay Callahan, Sam Cessna, Patti MacDonald