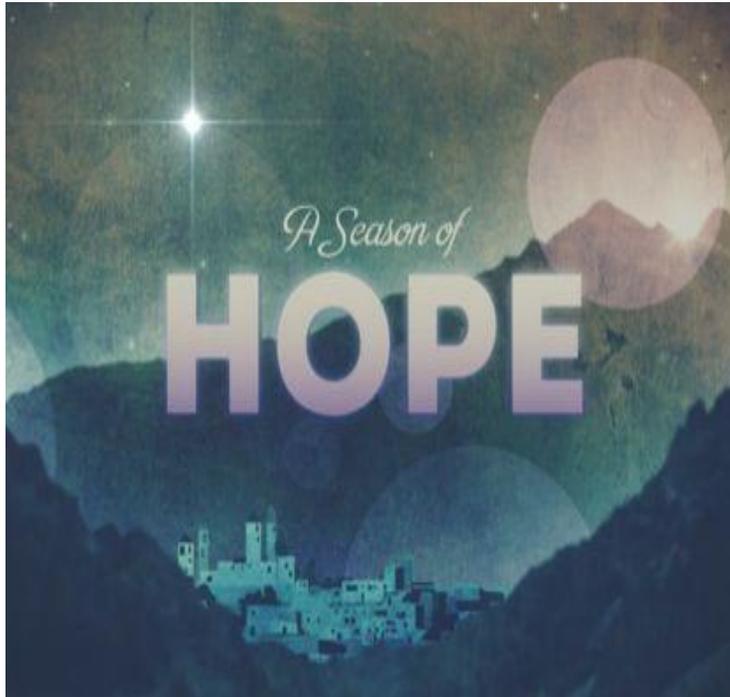


December 3, 2017  
First Sunday of Advent  
First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte  
2230 Harriet Street, Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
(941) 625-5045 [www.fpcpc.com](http://www.fpcpc.com)  
Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.



## *Welcome to All*

We are delighted that you are here today and hope you have a meaningful worship experience. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we extend a special welcome! Your presence is important to us, so we encourage you to sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to those seated near you. Also, if you have a prayer need, please complete one of the Prayer Cards and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. It will be our privilege to pray for you.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### Chimes

### Greetings

Leader: The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

### Prelude

*Veni, Veni Emmanuel*

Margo Lazzerini  
*Latin, 9th Century*

### Welcome and Announcements

### Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us worship God who gives light  
to see the way.

**All: Come, let us worship God who gives hope  
to walk in faith.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God who came as a child.

**All: Come, let us worship God!  
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.**

Leader: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

### Introit

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Chancel Choir

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle – Hope**

**John, Thelma and Margaret James**

Reader 1: God of Promise, God of Hope,

**All: we watch and wait for you to come into the darkness.**

Reader 2: In a world where hope seems lost by so many,

**All: we watch and wait expectantly for you to shine into the shadows of our world.**

Reader 1: Where there is war, hunger, and disease; where there is terror, violence and grief,

**All: God of Hope, we watch and wait for you to enter into our lives.**

Reader 2: On this first Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Hope.  
Candle of Hope Lit.

Prayer

## **Light the Advent Candle**

Chancel Choir

## **Opening Prayer**

**All: O God, our light, if ever there were a people who need your light, it is us. If ever there were a place where hope needed to be born, it is in the manger of our hearts. The work of your hands surrounds us, the miracle of your coming confronts us. God of Hope, come be present in our worship. Amen.**

## **\* Passing of the Peace**

## **\*Advent Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Blue Hymnal #2*

## **Invitation to Confession**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**All:** It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

## **Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader:** Our God of hope does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us.

**All:** Hope and love abound as we embrace God's forgiveness, and we wait eagerly for Him to come again.

## **\* Congregational Response**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*Blue Hymnal #44, 3<sup>rd</sup> Verse*

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **Reading from Scripture**

*Isaiah 9:2-6*

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### **Anthem**

*A Tiny Child Will Come*

Chancel Choir

*D. Besig*

## Prayers of the People

### Hymn of Preparation

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*Blue Hymnal #9*

### Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

*John 1:1-14*

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Proclamation of the Word

*Follow The Star: Hope*

Rev. Terri Jo Crego

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### \*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.**

### Presentation of Tithes and Offering

*Gabriel's Message*

*Basque Melody*

**\*Congregational Response**

*Doxology*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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.**

Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Bread and Juice

*All are invited to share in the Lord's Supper. As you take the bread, we invite you to hold it until all are served and we will eat together as a sign of our unity in Christ. As you take the juice, drink it as you feel led as a sign of your personal relationship with Christ.*

Prayer of Gratitude

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

**Hymn of Dedication**

*The First Nowell*

*Blue Hymnal #56*

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*R. Hobby*

## Calendar of Events

### **SUNDAY, December 3**

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service with Communion	10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Congregational Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Session Meeting	11:30 a.m.

### **MONDAY, December 4**

Exercise Class Monday – Thursday (All are invited - \$1 per class)	9:00 a.m.
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### **TUESDAY, December 5**

Food Pantry	9:00 a.m.
Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Sarah/Abraham Circle	1:30 p.m.
Youth Group	4:45 p.m.
Dorcas Circle	7:00 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, December 6**

Peace Piecers	9:30 a.m.
Cards & Games	1:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

### **THURSDAY, December 7**

Fellowship Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Mah jongg	1:00 p.m.
Church Night Social	5:00 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, December 8**

Office Closed

### **SATURDAY, December 9**

Office Closed	
Home Alone Group	2:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, December 10**

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.

**The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte is:  
To be a beacon in the community by leading all people into a life changing,  
ever growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

### **Ministry Staff**

Rev. Terri Jo Crego, Pastor	pastor@fpcpc.com
Betty Smith, Financial Secretary	bsmith@fpcpc.com
Tanga Killian, Church Secretary	tanga@fpcpc.com
Butch Rotert, Custodian	butchnjoyce@yahoo.com
Scott Austin, Grounds Keeper	scottaustin0557@gmail.com
Judy Prier, Organist	judyprrier@comcast.net
Joan Byron, Music Director	jfbbyron@comcast.net

### **Session**

Class of 2017: Sandy Asaro, Rebekah Baird, Ambrose Woods  
Class of 2018: Barbara Danylak, Nancy Sharpless, Ron Smith  
Class of 2019: Joan Barry, Gail Gamble, Richard Lund

### **Deacons**

Class of 2017: Doris Coddington, Dottie Messick, Don Phillips, Elaine Woods  
Class of 2018: Dottie Gamble, Pauline Paquin, Laverne Sinkia, Donald Whitmarsh  
Class of 2019 Andy Buell, Clarence Diersing, Addie Schaad, Diane Schmidt

### **Trustees**

Richard Lund (President), Ron Smith (Vice President)  
Ambrose Woods (Treasurer), Sandy Asaro (Secretary)  
Class of 2017: Bob Hull (Member at Large)  
Class of 2018: Clarence Diersing (Member at Large)

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## ***December 3, 2017***

Thank you to Elaine Woods and Brad Messick helping lead worship this morning.



### **CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**11:15 a.m.**

**Sanctuary**

**A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the Worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is to elect our next class of Elders, Deacons, and a Trustee.**

### **BREAKFAST BUNCH**

**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 a.m.**

**MacDonald Hall**

Join us on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in Mac Hall for some delicious breakfast and fellowship. Pastor Terri Jo will be cooking breakfast (thankfully with some help from some friends, *but you still may want to bring your Tums*). After we eat, Debby Wendell, the Adventure Camp Coordinator at Pine Shores Presbyterian Church and longtime Christian Educator, will take us on a tour around the world, discovering the Christmas traditions as they are celebrated. Debby has not only traveled extensively globally, she has also researched Christmas traditions that will help make this a fun and meaningful morning in our own Christmas season. Bring \$2 to help cover costs and sign up in the New Life Center or Narthex to make a reservation so we know how much food to prepare.

### **CHURCH NIGHT SOCIAL AND CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG**

**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 p.m.**

**New Life Center**

As part of this special holiday celebration, the choir is hosting a pot luck dinner with chili (both mild and a little spicy) and cornbread. All we ask is that you bring a side dish or dessert. After dinner we will have a good old-fashioned Christmas carol sing along. So, mark your calendars for Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and join us at 5:30 p.m. for good food and fun!

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

**The Longest Night of the Year**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Wintergarden Presbyterian Church**

*Blue Christmas* is a worship service which acknowledges that, for many people, Christmas is a time of loneliness, sorrow, alienation, and sadness. This service offers a way for people to claim those feelings and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God. In some churches it is also known as *The Longest Night of the Year Service*. You are invited to worship with us, joining our brothers and sisters at Wintergarden Presbyterian Church.



*Calling All Bakers!*  
*Calling All Welcomers!*  
*Calling all Prayer Warriors!*  
**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE INVITATIONS**  
**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**4:45 p.m.**  
**New Life Center/Neighborhood**

You are invited to participate in reaching out to our surrounding community with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Cookie Invitations event. We will walk around our neighborhood once again in small groups to personally invite people to join us for our Christmas Eve Service. Along with an invitation, we will give each family a bag of homemade cookies. Last year, thanks to your generosity we had over 700 cookies to deliver!!

We will need your help once again this year please:

- We would appreciate any bakers who can make homemade cookies and put them in Ziploc bags (6 cookies per bag).
  - “Slice and bake” cookies are also welcome in the baggies =)
- We welcome all who are available to come on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> to go out into the neighborhood and extend our invitation to the Christmas Eve Service and deliver cookies.
- We are grateful for all who can pray about efforts being made in reaching our neighbors in a meaningful way that may lead some to attend.

If you are able to make cookies, please let Sandy Asaro know and turn them into the church office no later than Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**HOME ALONE GROUP**

*Details to all events are on the bulletin board in the New Life*

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.**

Cookie decorating and an ugly t-shirt or sweater contest at Anita Nagy’s house.

**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

Cruise local canals and see Christmas lights. The cost is \$19.