

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Worship Bulletin

December 17, 2023 – 10am

*For our liturgy this morning, **BOLD** text invites all to join in the reading.

The First Presbyterian Church of Everett welcomes you to worship. Our Friendship Pads are back in our pews. We hope you take a moment to fill them out. This is a great way for us to get to know who's worshipping with us and to connect you to our community. Again, welcome!

Prelude *Chorale Prelude In Dulci Jubilo* – Sebastian Bach Gary Norris, Organist

Ringling of the Bell Steve Torrence, Director of Music Ministries

Welcome Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Call to Worship Psalm 126 Merle Kirkley

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;

Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

Shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Lighting of the Joy Candle

This Advent, we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ, and we lit the candle of Peace, remembering God's dream of a peaceful world. (Light Candles).

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.

In Advent, we are in a time of waiting. Like the Israelites who wandered through the wilderness, waiting to come into the Promised Land, we wait for the coming of the Joy of Ages. We wait for the day where we can join our voices with the angels to sing "Joy to the World, the Lord is come!" We wait for the day when everlasting joy will be on each of us. We light this candle in Joy. (Light Candle)

On this day, we remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.

Hymn *In the Bleak Midwinter*

#36

Prayer of Confession

Merle Kirkley

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. We have lost our way and bound ourselves with unnecessary chains. Restore us, we pray and remove the barriers we have placed between you and us. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Take a moment for silent personal confession and reflection.

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of Christ, be with you! **And also with you!**

Hymn	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	#579
Hymn	<i>I Wonder as I Wander</i>	FPCE Sings #14
Choir Anthem	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Directed by Steve Torrence
Scripture	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!		
Sermon	<i>Simple Joy</i>	Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Prayers of the People

Hymn	<i>As with Gladness Men of Old</i>	#63
<u>Benediction</u>		Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway
Postlude	<i>Hark The Herald</i> – Kenneth Varner	Gary Norris, Organist

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Part of our liturgy today was adapted from the Presbyterian Outlook, 2023 by Tara Bulger and provided for free distribution.

Choir Anthem

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, O come, O come!

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

O come, O come thou Dayspring some and cheer our spirits by Thine Advent here. And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!

Rejoice! Rejoice Emmanuel. Shall come to Thee O Israel.

O come Desire of Nations bind all people in one heart and mind. Bid envy strife and quarrels cease and fill the world with Heaven's peace. O rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, O come. Come.

Announcements

The residents of Bethany at Silver Lake thank the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church for their wonderful donations to their Residents Market. With the donations, the residents can select an item and choose a wonderful wrapping paper to create a special gift for a loved one. From Teresa Good.

Christmas Eve at FPCE – Sunday, December 24th

Join us for the following Christmas Eve events happening at FPCE:

Christmas Cantata
"City of Hope"

10:00 am in Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Fellowship
Coffee, Cocoa, and Cookies

5:45 pm in Westminster

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

7:00 pm in Sanctuary

More Details...

Christmas Eve Fellowship **Coffee, Cocoa, and Cookies**

Join Pastor Alan before worship at 5:45 pm. We invite you to bring cookies to share. Store bought or homemade. Bring a dozen or as many as you'd like. We will provide delicious coffee and cocoa to round out this community time.

The best part – you can take leftover cookies home to eat on Christmas day! We will provide cookie carriers.

All friends and family are welcome to join.



VOA Food Donations

We donated 364 pounds of food to the Volunteers of America Food Bank this week. Our total for the year is 3,630 pounds! Great job! Our next drive-through collection is January 8th from 10am to 12pm. Pastor Alan and Ken Newman will be accepting non-perishable food in the alley. You can also bring non-perishable food any Sunday and add it to the collection boxes at each door. Your donations support those in need here in Everett. Thank you for your donations.

Annual Congregational Meeting & Annual Reports

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, February 4, 2024, after worship in the sanctuary.

Annual report submissions are due via email/hard copy to Pastor Alan by/on January 5, 2024.

Hymn Requests

The Worship Committee invites you to suggest a favorite song or hymn for inclusion in worship. There are request forms next to the offering box. Just fill one out and drop it in the offering box and we will try our best to include your hymn in worship in the following weeks.

This Week...

- **Sunday School Sunday School** today is at 11:30am in hybrid format, both in-person in Calvin Lounge and on Zoom. Join Pastor Alan as we watch Season 2 of The Chosen.
 - Join Zoom using this new link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85803311791?pwd=RXZmczdqZjNWeWVyT2gvU1BvNEFIQT09>
 - Meeting ID: 858 0331 1791
- **Lunch with Alan** – is on Mondays at noon in the church library. The north door will be open at 11:45am. Bring your lunch or just come to talk and catch up. Coffee is provided.
- **Thursday Bible Study** – Join Pastor Alan December 21st using the Zoom platform. We will be studying Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 2:1-7.
 - Join Zoom using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4319124902>
 - Meeting ID: 431 912 4902
- **Next Sunday** we will have hybrid worship at 10am.
 - All videos are linked to our Facebook page, website, app, and YouTube channel.

To all worshipping with us...

The First Presbyterian Church is a sanctuary open to all people. Please:

- Honor those who wish to wear masks in our facility. Ask people to be kind and welcoming to those who may need some extra space.
- Respect boundaries if one asks for alternative ways of greeting.
- Use the many hand sanitizer stations throughout our building.

If there is any confusion, concerns, or questions, please contact Pastor Alan or a greeter. Our goal is to worship together and love our neighbor. We value everyone being able to worship in safety, inclusion, and openness. All are welcome.

Prayer Requests December 17, 2023

- We pray for peace and the cessation of war in Israel/Palestine. While there are historical and political complexities and layers to this conflict, we boldly pray for Israeli and Palestinian families who have been caught in the middle and torn apart. We pray for those grieving, for those suffering, for those confused, and for those whose only reaction is to seek revenge. We pray for comfort, relief, healing, and release. We seek your peace that defies understanding to settle on families, individuals, and leaders on all sides. We pray, fully knowing we do not have the answers, knowing we are weak and sometimes prejudiced, but trusting our Lord Jesus knows the answer, is working, and is present there.
- We pray for peace between Russia and Ukraine.
- Eunice Allan died November 28, 2023. Please keep her family in your prayers.
- Please pray for our daughter, Monica, who recently had a partial knee replacement. She is having a hard time. Her husband, Robby, is trying to help but since his stroke it's hard on him also. From Martha & Mike Clemans.

- **Update:** Amber McGuire's recent CT scan showed no blood in her brain. She still has headaches and probably will while her brain is still healing. She can now drive and work part-time until her next visit in February. Aneurism is very tiny. Thank you for your prayers. She is alive today because of all the prayers. From Sonya & Phil Beardsley.
- **Update:** Our grandson, Mason, who had back surgery in 2022 has been cleared by Shriners Hospital to resume full activities. Many of you prayed for a successful outcome and recovery for Mason and we are full of gratitude and thanks for those answered prayers. Our deepest thanks, Tony and Lois Tysseling
- **Update:** I am very thankful and appreciative of the prayers, cards, and expressions of encouragement from the First Presbyterian Church family. I was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer on September 4. I went through surgery and several tests to confirm the diagnosis. After confirmation, the doctors put me on a treatment plan that is based on immunotherapy. The plan provides a 50/50 chance to live for four years. I know that God can miraculously heal if he so chooses, although I recognize that happens very rarely. I do know that He walks with me every day on this journey. Prayers have been answered. Thanks for your support. Gary Norris
- **Update:** Barbara Peckham's shoulder replacement surgery went well, and she is home recovering. Prayers are appreciated. From David Baer-Peckham.
- **Update:** Jean Kanter is recovering from COVID and slowly getting her strength back. Jean and Kory thank everyone for their prayers, calls and cards.
- Please pray that Gordy realizes how loved he is and that he forgives me as I hurt him. From Jodi Doney.
- **Update:** Susan Klingler is seeking a second opinion about her leg and appreciates prayer.
- Please pray for Jimmy Sharp's friend, John, whose son was in a motorcycle accident and is paralyzed.
- Please pray for Genevieve Heuer who will be having surgery for melanoma. From Jimmy Sharp.
- **Update:** Vicki Dorway's friend's mom was recently diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Please pray for her to tolerate her new cancer treatments and guide the professionals and family on this journey. Mom has a strong faith and is grateful for the prayers.
- Randy Fehlhaber asks for prayer for his dear friend, Marian Luca and his wife, Sanda. Marian, who grew up in Romania in a village and has a super strong gene heritage, and though his life has been "strong as a bull", is suddenly gravely ill with cancer. Word from Sanda is that his liver function is dependent on the next round of chemotherapy. Please pray for liver function.
- Please pray for Hugh Minor.
- Please pray for Jay Kuhnenn who has been struggling with a couple of cysts on the nerve bundle in his lower back causing sciatica in both of his legs. The first injection has not provided relief. He is now exploring the next steps.

- **Update:** Sue Hermansen appreciates our prayers and sends a huge thank you to those who have lifted her family in prayer. She is asking for prayers for her vision which has been impacted by her stroke. For the present she is staying with her daughter, Lori. From Lois Tysseling.
- Our friend Karen Jensen asks for our prayers. Her husband recently passed away and she is now living in an adult home struggling with a long history of lupus. From Alan and Dottie Villevik.
- Our friend Meredith's mother, Beverly, is hospitalized in critical condition. We appreciate your prayers for her and her family. From Ari and Robin Kohler.
- **Update:** Marsha Lueth – We are grateful to learn she does not have brain cancer. Marsha had a stroke but is thankful for your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for Marsha for strength with her on-going health concerns.
- **New Update:** Son-in-law, Doug Schultz, is now committed to his “chemo for life” regimen (Revlimid). He's driving short distances, and we praise God daily for his improvements in his balance and strength. Thank you for your continuous prayers. From Annette King.
- **Update:** Karen, daughter of Marilee Richards, is making progress with her health challenges and the family is grateful for the prayers. Please continue to pray for ongoing improvement.
- **Update:** on prayer request for our granddaughter, Melissa Mobeck. Chris and Melissa both appreciate our prayers and ask for continued prayers for Melissa's healing. From Alan and Dottie Villevik.
- **Update:** On our friends Mike and Jeannine Schone: Mike continues to feel great and appreciates our prayers. Recent tests showed no cancer but is continuing his treatment as recommended by his doctors. From Alan and Dottie Villevik

Continued Prayers for FPCE

- Family of Dierdre Hervey
- Family of Cindy Rowlands
- Family of George Newland
- Family of Wes King
- Family of Peter Boonstra
- Family of Maggie Lamus
- Family of Lin Davis
- Joan Copeland
- Bob Barren's sister, Pamela
- Arlene Mawudeku
- Carol Gresham
- Jan Geibel, daughter of Judy & Clyde Pitcher
- Tom & Pat Dotson – friends of Bob & Barbara Barren
- Cody, grandson of Marilee Richards

- Florence Day
- Karen Summers
- Quinn Carpenter
- Genny Heuer and extended family
- Larry O'Donnell
- Robert Henry
- Paul & Joyce Richardson
- LaMara Halstrom and Jane McMahan – Steve and Nancy Torrence
- Pat Weakley Hein – sister-in-law of Jan Weakley
- Matt McCoy, grandson of Annette King
- Clyde Pitcher
- Robby as he continues to heal and for Monica helping every step of the way – from Martha and Mike Clemans
- Cy Paydar – nephew of Steve and Nancy Torrence

We pray for families affected by dementia and/or Alzheimer's. As with other individuals and families, we pray for successful research, perseverance, a sense of humor, and the Spirit's peace.

In the Bleak Midwinter

36

CRANHAM Irregular

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.

Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter,
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him,
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels
 4. What can I give Him,

Frost - y wind made moan,
 Nor earth sus - tain;
 May have gath - ered there,
 Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron,
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim
 If I were a shep - herd,

Wa - ter like a stone;
 When He comes to reign:
 Thronged the air;
 I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter
 But His moth - er on - ly,
 If I were a wise man,

Snow on snow,
 A sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 In her maid - en bliss,
 I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter,
 The Lord God in - car - nate,
 Wor - shipped the be - lov - ed
 Yet what I can I give Him:

Long a - go.
 Je - sus Christ.
 With a kiss.
 Give my heart.

579

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greator, 1851

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." The piano accompaniment consists of chords and simple rhythmic patterns. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, the second system covers the second line, and the third system covers the third line. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

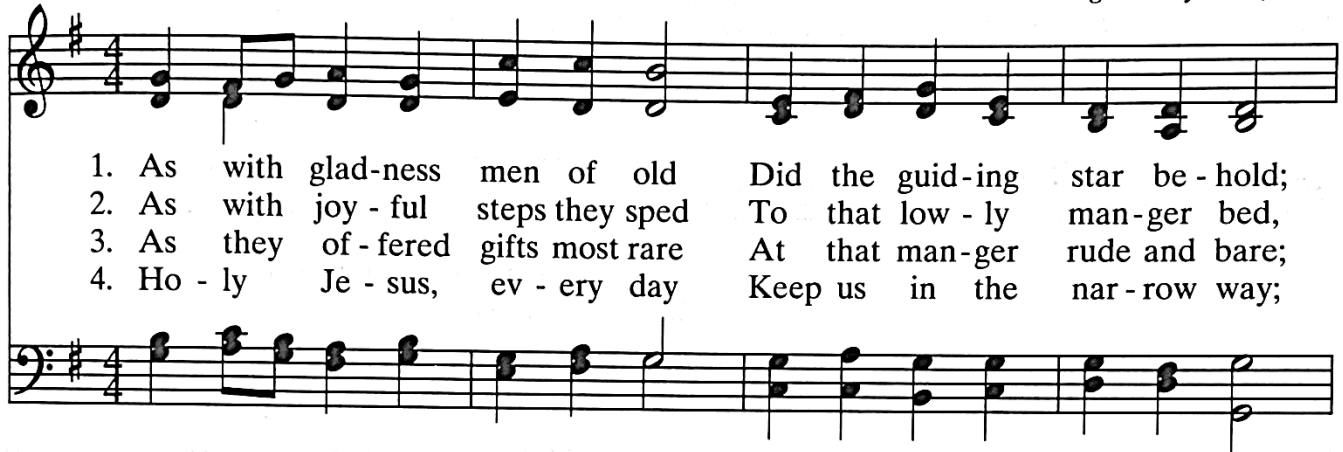
As with Gladness Men of Old

63

DIX 7.7.7.7.7

William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858

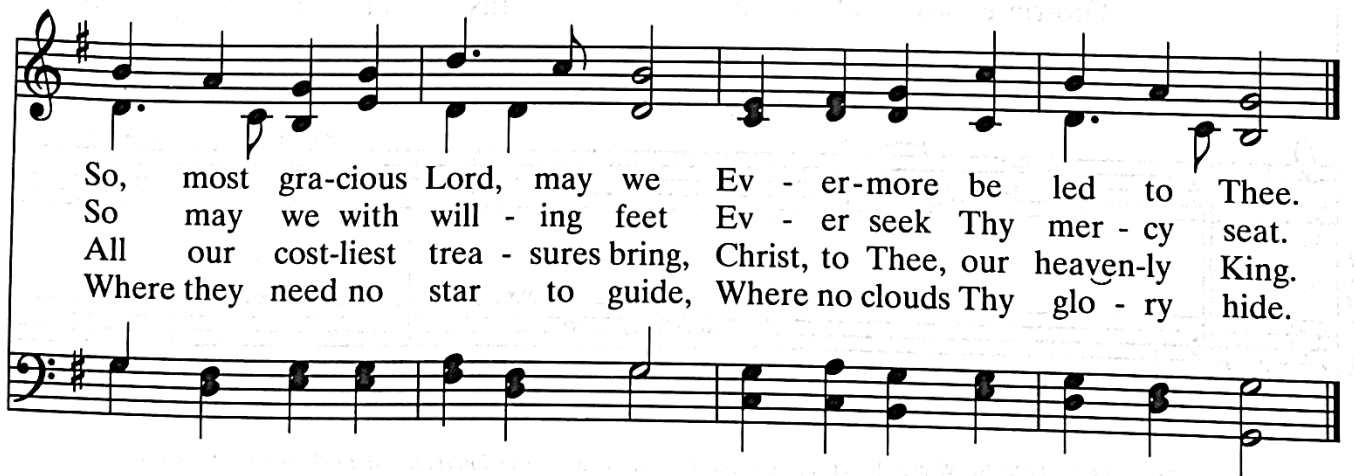
Conrad Kocher, 1838
Abr. William Henry Monk, 1861
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906



1. As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2. As with joy-ful steps they sped To that low-ly man-ger bed,
3. As they of-fered gifts most rare At that man-ger rude and bare;
4. Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-ery day Keep us in the nar-row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Him whom heaven and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure, and free from sin's al-loy,
And, when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led to Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heaven-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.