

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EVERETT

Online Worship Bulletin
December 24, 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 *Sing We Now of Christmas* – Young Gary Norris, Organist

Ringing of the Bell Steve Torrence, Director of Music Ministries

Welcome Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Call to Worship Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to my servant David: 'I will establish your descendants forever and build your throne for all generations.' " Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one and said,

"I have set the crown on one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed him; my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him. I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name his horn shall be exalted.

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers. He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!' "

Lighting of the Love Candle

Last Sunday we lit three candles. We lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ; the candle of Peace, remembering God's desire of a peaceful world; and the candle of Joy, remembering the Spirit within us who brings joy. (Light Candles).

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love.

Scripture tells us “There is no fear in love, for perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18). God created this world in love and this world will end in the love of God. God’s love pervades all aspects of this life. From birth to death, pain to delight, strangers to lovers, God’s love is there. We light this candle in Love. (Light Candle)

On this day, we remember God is Love.

Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

#5

Prayer of Confession

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us confess the sins that have kept us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

Gracious God, we anticipate the birth of our newborn savior. Yet we are depressed by the suffering and despair of our world. Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness. What reason is there to rejoice? We question your power and doubt our faith. Emmanuel, help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. Lift our spirits so we can experience your transcendent presence and incarnate grace.

Take a moment for silent personal confession and reflection.

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” (Psalm 103:7)
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

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

Hymn *Glory Be to the Father*

#579

Chancel Choir Cantata
City of Hope

Directed by: Steve Torrence

Narrators: Marne Larson and Stephen Moore

A Bright Shining Hope

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Mary’s Canticle

Soloist – Amy Starkey

Away in a Manger

Bethlehem Noels

Child of Hope

The Virgin Mary

Praise to the Holy Child

O Holy Night

Soloist – Leslie Sutin

Cantata created and arranged by Tom Fettke and Jay Rouse

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Alan Dorway

Postlude

Hallelujah Chorus – Handel

Gary Norris, Organist

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

**Poinsettias in our Sanctuary were made possible
through generous donations**

Given by...

In Memory and In Honor of...

Judy and Steve Hammond

In Honor of Ingrid and Latham

Tom and Pat Erickson

In Memory of our Parents and Grandson Zach
In Honor of our Children

Annette King

In Memory of Weston King and Del & Pat Gerry

Dorothy Nerison

In Honor of our dedicated Choir

Marsha Lueth

In Memory of Carol Beyer and Molly Jean Montgomery

Bob and Barbara Barren

In Memory of Scott Talley

Amy and Doug Farnham

In Memory of Mary K and Rollo Farnham, Beve & Jim Evans, and
James Sauers
In Honor of Todd, Emily, Alex, Logan, and Will

The Good Family

In Memory of Janet and Dale Good

Peggy Hotes

In Memory of Scott Morrow

Kari Nupen

In Memory of Barry and Judy Nupen

Announcements

Christmas Eve at FPCE

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.

Church Office

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Saturday, December 30.

Sunday, January 7th Worship & Sunday School

On Sunday, January 7th, we are grateful to have Rev. Jonna Reeder preach and guide worship for us! Jonna is a pastor, missionary, and friend of our congregation and we look forward to the word she will bring us.

SCRABBLE

Scrabble resumes in January on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We invite newbies, the average "word-joe", experts, mentors, and YOU to join us on January 3rd and January 17th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Westminster Hall for fellowship, fun and SCRABBLE. The north door will be open from 12:50pm to 1:00pm. For more information, please contact Linda Senter or Lois Tysseling. Hope to see YOU there!

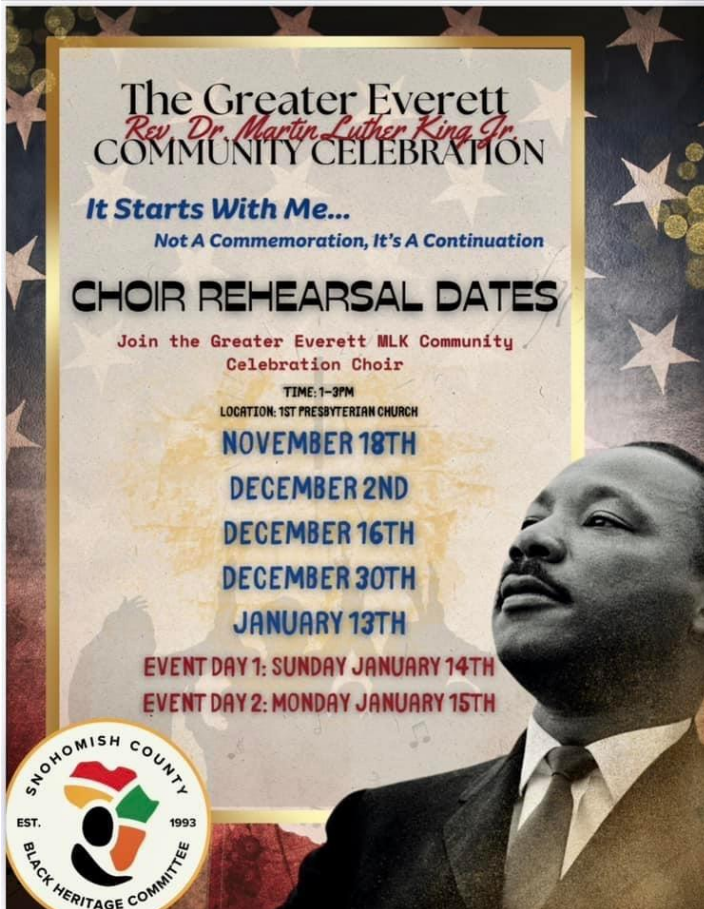
Annual Reports & Annual Congregational Meeting

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

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

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.



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...

- **Adult Sunday School** – There is no adult Sunday school today or on December 31st. We are in for a special treat on Sunday, January 7th when Jonna Reeder will be leading our Sunday school hour sharing about her ministry with refugees in our area.
- **Lunch with Alan** is on holiday break. We will resume on Monday, January 8th.
- **Thursday Bible Study** is on break until January 18th. We will begin a new study on Job through March 21st.
- **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 24, 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.
- Elizabeth Nelson's good friend Heather Burke, who has on occasion sung soprano at our church, has a sister Angie who is battling cancer. Angie is a wife, mother to a 13-year-old, and a very talented business owner. She was diagnosed with uterine cancer and is now being treated with chemotherapy. Heather appreciates our prayers.
- 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.
- We pray with Jody Doney for her brother Randy and sister-in-law Elly to find a place to live that's a reasonable distance from a bus stop. We pray they will be faithful, healthy, and strong during this time. We also pray for their dog, Sarah.
- **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 Villesvik.
- 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

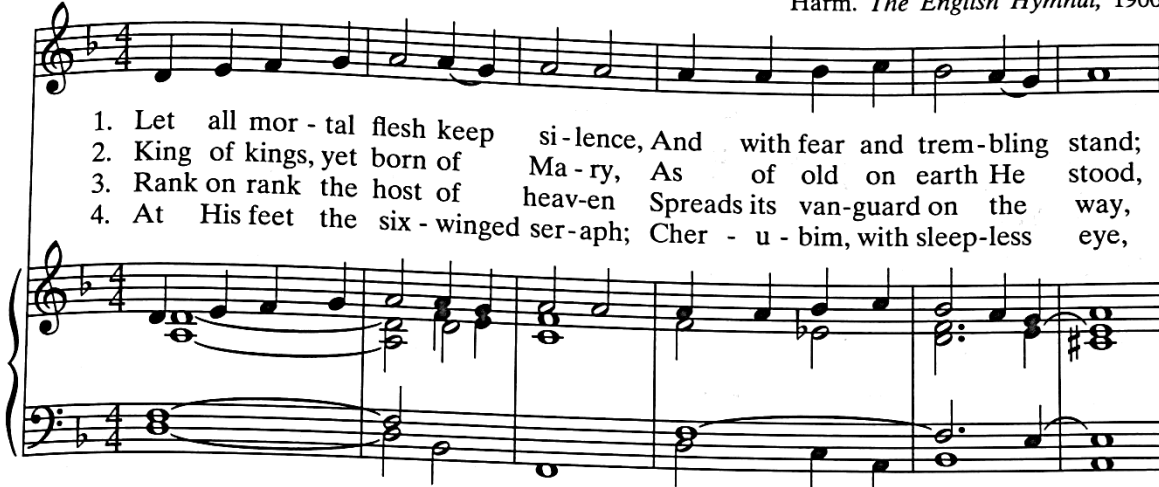
- Family of Dierdre Hervey
- Family of Cindy Rowlands
- Family of George Newland
- Family of Wes King
- Family of Peter Boonstra
- Family of Maggie Lamus
- Family of Lin Davis
- Joan Copeland
- Bob Barren’s sister, Pamela
- Arlene Mawudeku
- Carol Gresham
- Jan Geibel, daughter of Judy & Clyde Pitcher
- 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.

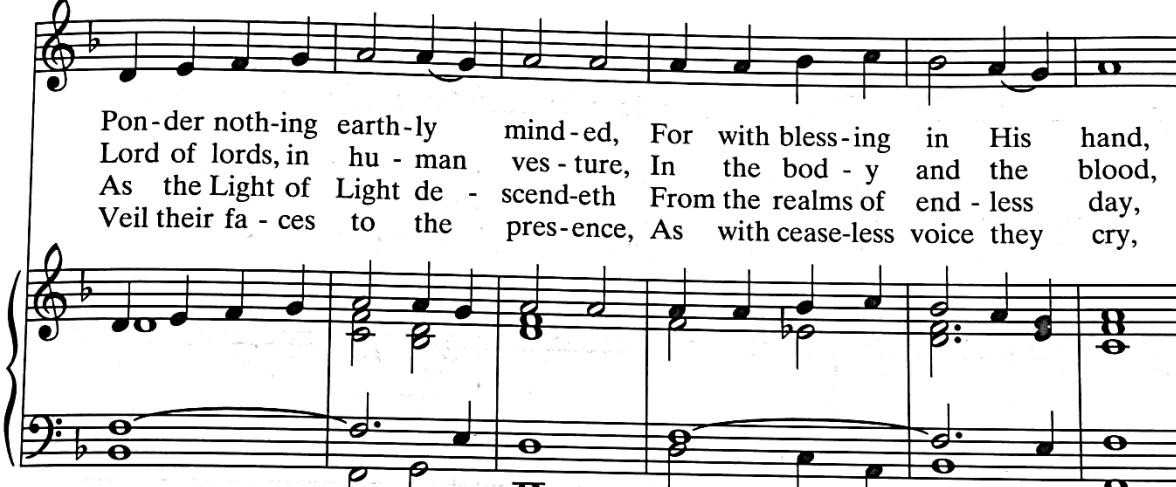
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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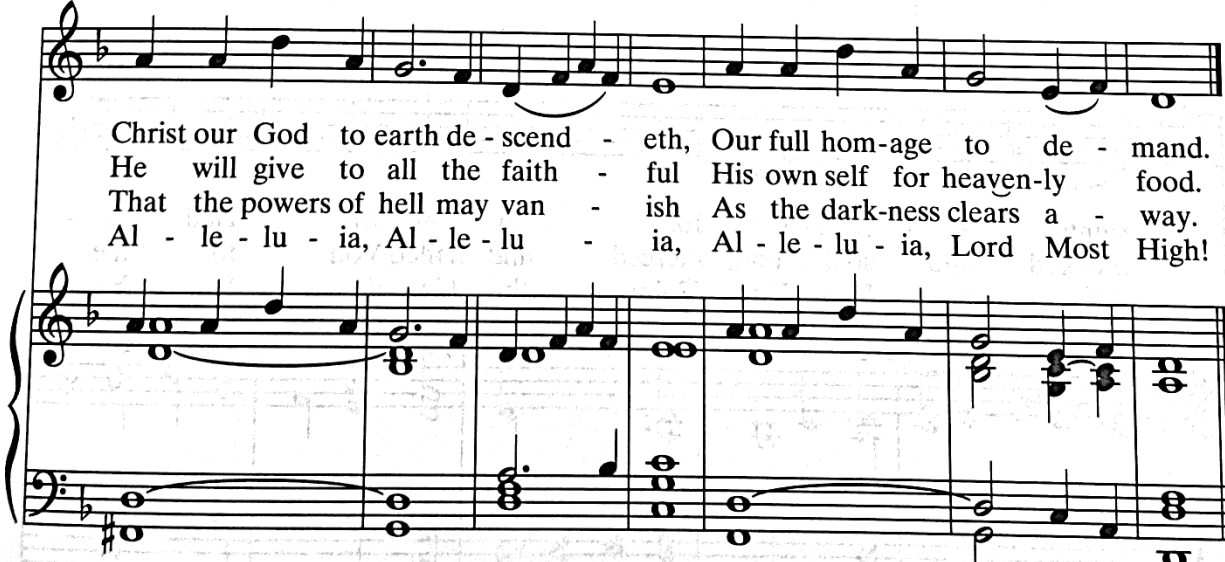
PICARDY 8.7.8.7.8.7

From Liturgy of St. James, 4th century
Trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864French carol
Harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906


1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and trem - bling stand;
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, As of old on earth He stood,
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van-guard on the way,
4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; Cher - u - bim, with sleep-less eye,



Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, For with bless - ing in His hand,
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, In the bod - y and the blood,
As the Light of Light de - scend - eth From the realms of end - less day,
Veil their fa - ces to the pres - ence, As with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
He will give to all the faith - ful His own self for heav - en - ly food.
That the powers of hell may van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. 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 features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

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

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