

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

One: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

Many: No! In all things we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us. We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offering plates will be passed to persons seated in pews. Gifts/pledges may also be sent to First Presbyterian Church by mail or through the "Give Now" link on our website:
<https://www.fpcjc.com>

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER** (Offertory Response, Hymn #606)

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT #110**

Love Has Come

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***People stand as they are able**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We strive to be a loving family of faith nurturing the spiritual growth of one another as we serve, worship, and reach out in celebration of Christ's Love.

December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Edward, Stephanie, & Quint Lindey

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen

MUSICAL RESPONSE:

Emmanuel

*HYMN OF PRAISE #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*INVITATION TO, AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean

heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS (Hymn #447)

We are Forgiven

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

*THE PEACE

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

Rise Up!
Spiritual

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

THE MESSAGE TEXT AND MESSAGE

Luke 21:25-36

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas"



- **Our members and friends who are living in a nursing home, assisted living or are partially or fully "home-bound"**
- **All those battling cancer**
- **Joyce Miles has recently been diagnosed with lung cancer. Please keep Joyce, Gary, and their family in your prayers.**

We encourage you to pray for these friends – send them a note, call, or visit them. Addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the church office. Send your prayer requests, concerns, and updates to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

Notice of Filming: Worship services are filmed and recorded to be included on our Church website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. While most footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. Children may be seen during children's sermons. If you have concerns, please contact the church office

Thanks to those who have assisted in this morning's worship:

Transitional Pastor: Kemper Huber

Worship Leader: Terrah Stroda

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: August Siefkes

Video Preparer/Operator/Sound: Colleen Smith

Key Deacon for Dec. transportation: Mary Kay Munson
(785-375-3189)

Elder on call the week of December 1: Jim Ray (785-307-5188)

Head Usher for December 1: Krista Blaisdell

Acolytes for December 1 are: Mallory King and Quint Lindey

Coffee Fellowship this week is hosted by Pam and Katie Haynes

Children are welcome in worship. We welcome all children and youth to stay during the worship service and experience God. If you need your child to go to the nursery, our caretakers are ready to receive them.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are provided by Linda and Tom Brungardt to the glory of God and in memory of Linda's parents Lester and Pauline Voran.

Christmas Eve Service will start at 5:00 pm with a pre-service Christmas Recital, followed by service at 5:30 pm. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring children of all ages to this worship service. Childcare will be provided.

All undesignated offerings this morning will be collected for the Food Pantry.

Per Capita for 2025 will be \$38.00.

Reminder: JELLY will meet today, from 12 -2 pm. K-12th grade are invited to join us.

Join us in the dining room for the **Sunrise Adult Sunday School class.** Please join us every Sunday at 8:55 am.

Join us in room 206 for the **Pathfinders Adult Sunday School class**. Please join us for hot coffee, breakfast snacks, warm fellowship, and great discussions every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Join us for our Wednesday lunchtime Bible study with Elaine Dill leading a study on Max Lucado’s book *Fearless*. This class meets from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in room 206.

Join us for our Friday lunch Bible study with Ashley King leading a study on Lisa Terkeurst’s book *Forgiving What You Can’t Forget*. This class meets from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in room 206.

Church services are streamed at: <https://www.fpcjc.com>. You will find our worship bulletin and links to our Facebook page and YouTube on this webpage.

If you have any information you would like in the **bulletin**, please let the church office know by **noon on Wednesday** for that week. You may call 785-238-1191 or email your info to office.fpcjc@gmail.com

If you want to put anything into the **January** newsletter, please email the information to the church office no later than **December 20, 2024**. Our email address is office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

When inclement weather is forecast, there are three ways you can find out if the church worship service has been canceled: WIBW (website or T.V.), our First Presbyterian Church-Junction City Facebook page, and email from the church if we have your email address.



Sunday, December 15 is “Bell Sunday”
If you have a special bell of your own you would like to ring during the Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High” be sure and bring it with you. There will be bells available for everyone.



Mark Your Calendars!

December 15 - Christmas Pageant during worship

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Monday	
10:00 am	Staff Meeting
4:00 pm	Facilities Committee
6:00 pm	Cub Scouts
Tuesday	
2:30 pm	Finance Committee
5:30 pm	Mission, Evangelism & Fellowship
6:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday	
8:30 am	Worship Committee
12:30 pm	Bible Study
6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm	AA Meeting
Thursday	
9:30 am	Christian Education Committee
Friday	
Noon	Bible Study
Saturday	
8:35 am	Men’s Breakfast
Sunday	
8:30 am	Glory Ringers Rehearsal
8:55 am	Sunrise Sunday School (Adult only)
9:30 am	Sunday School (Adult and Youth)
10:45 am	Worship, child care available
	Coffee Fellowship

Advent / Christmas Study

“Finding Our Place at the Manger” will be offered at both the 8:55 and 9:30 Adult Sunday school classes during Advent (Sundays December 1, 8, 15, and 22nd). We will look at the different characters in our Nativity scenes and see how they can speak to us today.

To enhance this study, the Worship Committee would like to invite the First Presbyterian Church family to share their favorite Nativity with the congregation. These nativities will be displayed all around the sanctuary for everyone to view and enjoy. The more nativities we have, the better!

Please bring your nativity on or before Sunday, November 24th. Following worship, we will hold the “Hanging of the Greens” as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. We would like to set up the nativities as part of this decorating for Christmas. We will have a place for every size from very small to much larger scenes. A note sharing where the Nativity is from or any special meaning for the Nativity (perhaps handed down for many years) would be helpful. Please help the church celebrate this special season by sharing your Nativity scenes.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please let us know if you will participate and how many nativities you will share.



Poinsettias

The church office will begin taking orders for Poinsettias to be used in the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

Cost is \$10.00 each (which includes tax).

If you want to purchase a Poinsettia, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Monday, **December 8th**. Checks should be made out to: First Presbyterian Church and noted “Poinsettias”

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 22nd for the 10:45 service, and for the Christmas Eve service, on Tuesday, December 24th.

Memorials and other expressions will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22nd.

Please pick up your Poinsettia following the **evening** worship service on Christmas Eve. Any Poinsettias not picked up will be distributed as the church deems best.

Name:

Number of Poinsettia(s) ordering:

Bulletin Inscription: (name(s) Given in memory of or in honor of)
In Memory of

In Honor of

The background is a light cream color with faint, stylized cloud outlines. Scattered throughout are various gingerbread cookies: a star with a snowflake pattern, a tree with lights, a candy cane, a snowflake, a heart, and a stocking. Small, light-brown stars are also scattered around the cookies.

Join us to celebrate

CHRISTMAS

With a Christmas Cookie
Exchange! Bring 3 dozen of
your favorite homemade goodies
to the parlor before church.

After Church, there will be a
container for you to fill with 3
dozen assorted goodies to enjoy
this holiday season!

15 December