



*"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High"
(Luke 1:32)*

December 1, 2024, 9:30am
Advent

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship in the FPC Sanctuary and welcome to those of you who worship with us online.

Please visit the church's website to learn about activities and ministry opportunities.

Sign up for our Email Updates at www.fpcsd.org



First Presbyterian Church
S A N D I E G O

**320 Date Street, San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-7513**

The Lord's Supper Instructions

We observe the Lord's Supper every week in worship. This communion meal is meant to unite us to Jesus Christ as well as each other. In it, we reaffirm the promises of our baptism and recommit ourselves to love and serve God and neighbor. We prepare to celebrate the Lord's Supper by putting our trust in Christ, confessing our sin, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

While we are being served communion at the table, the pastor will bring both bread and cup to all who are seated and cannot come to the table.

If you would like to pray with someone, our elders are available during communion to pray with you. Please come to the front of the sanctuary where they are waiting for you.

At the end of all being served, a deacon will come to the table and take from the table some bread and cups and exit up the aisle.

Later that day and during the week the deacons will take these to our members who could not attend worship, thus extending the communion to all our members.

If you are not a Christian, please consider using this communion time to pray with one of the following printed prayers:

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

First Presbyterian Church of San Diego

Worships God

by

Gathering around the Word

Hearing the Word

Responding to the Word

December 1, 2024, 9:30am

Advent

Gathering Around the Word

Preparing for Worship with Prelude and Prayer

As we assemble in Jesus' name, begin with a private prayer of preparation:

*O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
pervading and permeating all creation,
you order all things with strength and gentleness:
Come now and teach us the way to salvation.
Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.*

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, arr. Mark Hayes

Advent Candle

The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

(Isaiah 2:4)

Singing Our Praise

Emmanuel (Praise Is Rising)

Singing Our Praise

Come Lord Jesus (Even So Come)

Announcing the Gospel

Surely God is our salvation;
we will trust and not be afraid.
The LORD, the LORD himself, is our strength and our defense;
he has become our salvation.

(Isaiah 12:2)

Trusting in God's grace in Jesus Christ, let us confess together.

Confessing our Sin

**Merciful God,
Although Christ is among us as our hope,
we are a people inclined to despair.
We desire immediate results in all our ventures,
without it, we quit too soon.
We think it's all up to us
so we try harder, with diminishing success.
We think we are our own saviors.
We do not wait for you.**

(silence for further individual confession)

**Gracious God,
Wait on us while we learn to wait.
Convince us again of your coming.
Prevent us from accepting any other salvation.
Help us to be still and know that you are God.
Teach us to hope – patiently, persistently.**

Amen.

Declaring God's Pardon

The desert and the parched land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.
And those the LORD has rescued will return.

(Isaiah 35:1, 10)

Brothers and Sisters:

In Christ, your sins are forgiven. Know this and be at peace.

Offering Our Lives in Gratitude

How shall we show our gratitude for such a salvation?

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Children may come forward to the front pew for Telling the Story)

Hearing the Word

Offering Our Prayers

Telling the Story and Praying the Lord's Prayer

The Prophets Tell of Jesus' Birth Isaiah 7; 9; 11; Micah 5
(After this, children may leave for Kidz Worship)

Singing Our Praise Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *(Hymn #2)*

Praying for Illumination

Reading the Word Luke 1:5-25

Declaring the Word Make Ready for the Lord a People Prepared

Responding to the Word

Presenting God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offering Our Music *The Yearning, arr. Craig Courtney*

Affirming the Faith of the Church

Doctrine of the Incarnation:

How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

Why was it necessary that the Mediator should be human?

It was necessary that the Mediator should be human; that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

(The Westminster Larger Catechism)

Sharing the Lord's Supper

During Communion: Prayer Partners are stationed in front of the stage by the side aisles for Prayer. As you pass by you are invited to share your prayer needs and receive prayer and ministry. If you have asked to follow Jesus today, you are encouraged to pray with a Partner. If the Partners are busy, sit in a front pew and approach after another person has received prayer.

Singing Our Praise *King of Kings (with Angels We Have Heard on High)*

Receiving the Blessing and Being Sent

Postlude

Servant Schedule

Liturgy: Riley McRae

Preaching: Jeff Myers

Advent Candle Lighters: Mike & Judy Palm

Offering our Prayers: Peter Tucker

Offering our Music:

Advent Choir Director, Piano: Rodney Girvin

Worship Leader: Elizabeth Rico, Joshua Montoya, Melody Rico

Piano: Pam Monroe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: CASKET Empty - Survey of the Old Testament – Pastor Jeff’s class goes through the entire Old Testament, focusing on the major plot points of the narrative of our redemption in Jesus. The Acronym "CASKET" is a helpful tool to remember the periods of God's work in the Old Testament: Creation; Abraham; Sinai; Kings; Exile; Temple. This class is in the West Room at 11:00am.

Staying in the Sermon - Sundays in the West Tower at 11:00am. Join us for a continuing conversation about the sermon in the West Tower after service at 11:00am.

Moved recently or have a new email address? New to us? Please complete a Connect Card located in a pew pocket near you. Your current contact information is appreciated. Bring it to the Connect Center outside the sanctuary or to the Welcome Center through the breezeway.

Prayer: If you want us to pray for you or someone you know, please fill out the Prayer Request on our Connect Card. Drop it in the offering plate or at the Welcome Center when completed. We have a team of dedicated prayer warriors who would be honored to pray with you. If you would be interested in joining our Prayer Team by receiving our weekly Prayer List, please contact: office@fpcsd.org.

Sunday Morning Children’s Ministry

A Cry Room/Nursing Room is available with Livestream of our service in our Prayer Room. You may exit out of the door to the right of the pulpit and continue straight into the room.

Infants and Preschoolers

- “The Nest” (0-4 yrs old) opens at 9:15am and continues through the 11:00a-12:00pm education hour.
- Follow signs from the back of the Sanctuary to The Nest

Elementary Students

9:30am

- Children attend worship with their parents in the Sanctuary
- During “Passing the Peace” they move to the front pew for the Children’s Story
- After the Children’s Story, students attend “Kidz Worship”- a Bible time for K-5th graders.
- They are returned to their parents in the Sanctuary before Communion

11:00am-Noon

- “The Flock” (K-5th grade) meets in the Geneva Room in the Christian Education Building
- Children study the Bible, memorize scripture, play games and visit the Memory Store
- Follow signs to The Flock

Pacific Sound Brass Free Christmas Concert, Monday December 2nd, 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Featuring: San Diego Christmas Brass Ensemble, The Swing Kittens vocal trio, Alex Miniak (Voice of Petco Park), narrator. And special guest Bobby Cressey, organist for the San Diego Padres, Gulls, and Sockers. A beloved holiday tradition continues with seasonal favorites, joyful jazz arrangements, audience singalong, and some musical surprises.

City Tree Christmas Shop. Sunday December 8th in the Geneva Room. The Christmas Shop has affordable gifts that range from 25 cents to \$15. There are items for kids and adults. 100% of the proceeds benefit City Tree Christian School. If you have questions, please contact Melodie Girvin at 858-335-9421 or the school office 619-232-3794.

Boy Scout Troop 15 Wreath Sales December 8th 10:30am Assembly Room. Troop 15 will have their annual wreath sale on Sunday December 8th. They will be set up in the Assembly Room after service.

Magnificat and Congregational Carols, Sunday December 15th 7:00pm Sanctuary A John Rutter Christmas: *Magnificat and Congregational Carols. Christmas by Candlelight* – presented by Westminster Choir, Pacific Coast Chorale, and organ under the direction of Rodney Girvin. The Magnificat is one of John Rutter’s most popular large-scale choral works.

A Charlie Brown Christmas! Saturday December 21, 2pm-6pm. “Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!” Spend the afternoon with Snoopy and Linus, enjoying live jazz playing the “Charlie Brown Christmas Special”. All are invited for food, games, and Christmas fun! Stop in ANY TIME between 2-6pm. This is a FREE EVENT.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!! Can you help us with our Charlie Brown Christmas outreach? We need help with food serving, children's games, children's Christmas crafts, greeting, photo booth, and a whole lot more! Please sign up today at <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>.

WEEKLY Events

FPC Advent Choir: You are invited to join Westminster Choir for the Advent season! Minimal time commitment, no Thursday rehearsals. Simply show up to the Choir Room at 8:30am any Sunday during Advent (beginning on December 1st), we will learn the music together and present it during our 9:30am Worship. Make new connections, build new friendships. No experience necessary, all are welcome!

Coffee Fellowship: Stop in the Assembly Room after service for coffee and fellowship. This is a great time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

Monday/Friday Women’s Bible Study: Join us in our Upheld 6 Week Bible Study Experience! “*I am with you, I will strengthen and help you, I will uphold you.*” God's promises spoken through Isaiah offered reassurance and comfort during difficult days, and they're still true for us today! Join Bible teacher Kori de Leon in this six-week Bible study experience on Isaiah 40–48, pointing us to God's faithfulness and mercy. Mondays 3:15pm Goodwin Annex and Fridays 8:30am West Room. Contact Suzy Walls (walls.suzy@gmail.com) or Peggy Gross (peggy.gross@fpcsd.org) for more information or any questions.

Joy of Living Women's Bible Study: We are studying the first 26 chapters of Genesis followed by the book of Job. We meet every Tuesday 9:30-11:30am for prayer, fellowship and in-depth Bible study, with breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. We conclude our study in mid-May 2025. We meet in-person weekly and will continue to have a Zoom option for those who cannot join us in-person for our study and discussion. Contact pegbaker@pacbell.net Please register online at: <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>

Downtown Playdate. Meets every Tuesday from 10am-Noon in the Scout Room. Connect with other parents and caregivers of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Contact peggy.gross@fpcsd.org for more information.

Men's Lunch Break Bible Study. Meeting Thursdays 11:30am-12:45pm via Zoom. To join, register at <https://fpcsd.churchcenter.com/registrations>

Thursday Women's Zoom Bible Study Meets weekly 9:30-11am via Zoom. Contact Sharon Laabs slaabs@spice-weasel.com or Janice Raymond jransmar@gmail.com to join or with questions.

Parenting and Pizza Church. Meets weekly on Thursdays in the West Room, the Scout Room and Courtyard. 6pm-7:30pm Contact peggy.gross@fpcsd.org for more information.

Youth/Young Adults: Youth group is a special place for students 6th-12th grade to come together, have fun, and learn about God! We meet in room 307 on Sunday mornings after service, and Thursday nights 6-7:30pm during Parenting Class. Our **Young Adults** community is a vibrant group of individuals aged 18-30ish. For more information on either of these groups, contact Elizabeth at elizabeth.rico@fpcsd.org

WE ARE HIRING!

Ladle Assistant The position of Ladle Assistant aids the excellence of the Ladle Fellowship Ministry of First Presbyterian Church (FPC), which provides food, clothing, medical services, mentoring, social service guidance, and spiritual guidance to the homeless and poor in downtown San Diego. The Ladle Assistant works in cooperation with the Director of Ladle, other FPC staff members, and members of the Ladle Advisory Team. Please contact Pascal Dickinson if you are interested in the position at pascal.dickinson@fpcsd.org

GIVING

| | <u>WEEKLY</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Offerings Needed | \$20,833 | \$895,830 |
| Offerings 11/22/2024 | \$21,971 | \$843,027 |
| Stewardship Appeal 2025 | | |
| Commitments | 49 | |
| Committed | \$498,336 | |

FPC Vision

As the body of Christ, we exist to foster a community of belonging in an environment of deep spiritual growth, walking together in word and deed.

FPC MINISTRIES



Our **FPC Mission Partners** share the good news of God's love with people around the world. Please pray for them throughout the year as they come alongside people in the difficult places where God has called them, in San Diego and beyond. Pray that we will all learn more about what it means to make mission our life's purpose and the purpose of the church. Read about our mission partners and see how you can pray, give, and go where God calls. For more info contact us at www.fpcsd.org/missions



City Tree Christian School, an outreach ministry of First Presbyterian Church of San Diego, is dedicated to academic excellence integrated with the teachings of Jesus Christ found in the Bible. Children will excel academically, be good citizens, and know God when provided educational experiences, needed care and protection in a loving Christian environment. Founded in 1976, City Tree began as a preschool and has grown to now serve infants through 8th grade. www.citytree.org



Ladle Fellowship, a ministry of FPC since 1983, lovingly addresses the needs of the poor and those experiencing homelessness. We serve meals and provide clothing for those in need on Sundays at 2:00pm. Our San Diego Street Choir rehearses each week and our medical ministry, Street Corner Care, provides medical care for the poor and individuals suffering on the streets.

www.ladlefellowship.org