

(*) Please rise in body or in spirit.
Bold italic Letters indicate congregational responses.

Service for the Lord's Day

— Gathering —

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A voice cries out in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord!

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy Lord, prepare us for the peace that only You can bring. Amen.

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Michele R. Goff

INTROIT

"Ready the Way"

Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Liturgist - Katie Hurst

Can you imagine?

***The wolf lives with the lamb;
the leopard rests with the goat.***

Can you imagine?

***Knowledge of the Lord fills the land;
righteousness reigns o'er all the earth.***

The Lord's light shines on a weary world—
illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

With peace in our hearts, let us worship God!

*HYMN #104

"Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Gerhardt, 1653

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

A choir sings in the silence, "Come, Emmanuel."

Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole,
for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than hate.

As we light our second Advent candle, ***we pray for the holy peace of God.***

Come now, O Child of Mary. ***Come now, O Prince of Peace.***

HYMN #89 ***"For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"***

Haugen, 1982

(vs.2,3)

Welcome! We're pleased you are with us today. Visitors, please take a moment to sign in on the pew cards or the Guest Book located in the narthex.

For your convenience, large print bulletins and pew shawls are available.

THIS WEEK

TODAY:	Holiday Concert Tonight	6:00 PM
Dec 9:	Adopt a Block	4:15 PM
Dec 15:	Rusk State Co. Hospital Angels	
Dec 15:	Pledges Cards	

Sunday: Combined Morning Study

Both classes meet together in the Parlor to discuss ***"While We Wait"*** by Mary Lou Redding. Come and reflect on Advent in

In December: Combined Sunday Morning Study

For the Advent season, CE has selected: "While We Wait" by Mary Lou Redding. A study in living the

This week's prayers and concerns:

Debbie Castro, Joyce Huggins, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Kenneth Tieken as chemo continues, for Lynn's sisters Cathy and Genieva, For the family of Clint Prior, for Mark Davenport, interim pastor at Mt Pleasant, and the family of Roberto Villareal. For the recovery of Sue Jones, for Barbara McMann's family at her passing, and rejoice with the Reynolds in welcoming another great-grandchild into the family.



First Presbyterian Church

Henderson, Texas



Church Staff:

PastorRev. Michele R. Goff

Ruling Elders:

- Rev. Michele R. Goff
- Kathy Porter - Clerk
- Bert Lowe
- Steve Lowe

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8am to 1pm

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Rev. Michele R. Goff's Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:30am to 12:30pm
(Or anytime by appointment)

"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

CONFESSION

SILENT REFLECTION

(A time of silence for personal prayer.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Holy One, Christ is coming; your kingdom is drawing near. We cannot remain unchanged. As we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace, help us abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We have neglected to plead the case of the poor, and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress, and turned a blind eye toward injustice. Renew our minds and transform our hearts, that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion and care. Baptize us with your Spirit, and claim us again for your holy work, until you come in glory.

LORD HAVE MERCY

“Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy upon us.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved of God, know that you are forgiven, and be at peace! ***Thanks be to God.***

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all. ***And also with you.***

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

— *Word* —

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Our younger Christians are invited to come forward for their special time. Afterwards, they are welcome to stay in the sanctuary, or may choose to go to our supervised playroom.

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-10

Bibles, p.602/LG. p.784

The word of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

GREEK SCRIPTURE

Romans 15:4-13

Bibles, p.153/LG. p.199

...but the word of the Lord stands forever. ***Thanks be to God.***

HYMN #96

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

Coffin, 1736

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-12

Bibles, p.2/LG.p.3

This is the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. ***Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

“Lions, Lambs, Locusts, and Honey”

Rev. Michele R. Goff

ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

...through Jesus Christ be all glory forever. ***Amen.***

*HYMN #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs.1,2,7)

Latin Prose

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Unison

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.18

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers. These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God's purpose would be realized.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - Responsive

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ's realm. God of our salvation, ***hear our prayer.***

LORD'S PRAYER - Unison

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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.

— *Response* —

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.***