

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung)

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us; And grant us thy peace. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Coventry Carol* arr. Douglas Wagner
Glory Ringers

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT #113** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***The Congregational Response #109**

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

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.

Advent 3

December 15, 2019

PRELUDE Piano Prelude: Josie Strauss, Amelia Strauss, Charlie Strauss,
Intergenerational Handbell Ringers

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTRUMENTAL INTROIT *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Arr. Douglas Wagner
Glory Ringers

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE **Let us read together:**

Gracious God, so many people need your joy and healing and
hope. In this season of giving, and on every day of the year, help
us to say and do those things that continue Christ's ministry of
compassion and caring.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN OF PRAISE #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we confess those places in our lives where we
have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love;
attitudes we will not change; good things we have left undone;
ways in which we have hurt you, ourselves and others. Come
to us in the light of Christ. Shine on those places we have
hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the
rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.

(silent prayers of confession)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In the grace and love of God, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS** *Gloria* Hymn No. 113 (refrain)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

***THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

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

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord God, as we journey towards the light of Christmas, keep us unafraid of the darkness. Give us courage and honesty in facing truths of our world, yet full of hope, because you sent Jesus to live among us. You promise to be with us, O God; be with us in the silence of our hearts, in the depths of our imaginations, at the center of our lives, and fill us with your love now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

1 Samuel 2: 1-10

CHORAL ANTHEM

What is This Lovely Fragrance arr. Willan

A CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

Therese Barber

THE SERMON TEXT

Luke 1: 46-55

SERMON “The Coming of Grace Into Our Lives” Thad Holcombe, HR

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Like a branch that sprouts from a stump,
someone from David’s family will someday be king.
The Spirit of the Lord will be with him
to give him understanding, wisdom, and insight.**

**This king won’t judge by appearances or listen to rumors.
The poor and the needy will be treated with fairness
and with justice.**

**Leopards will lie down with young goats,
and wolves will rest with lambs.
Calves and lions will eat together
and be cared for by little children.
Nothing harmful will take place on the Lord’s holy mountain.**

**Just as water fills the sea,
the land will be filled with people
who know and honor the Lord.**

from, Isaiah 11 (C.E.V.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER *MAORI & POLYNESIA*

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the
world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;**

Thanks to those who have assisted in all the parts and pieces of this morning's worship:

Pastor: Tim Maguffee

Worship Leader: Chris Jeffrey

Chancel Choir Director: Joe Markley

Music Coordinator and Handbell Director: Sheila Markley

Organist: Anne Otte

Video preparer/Operators: Randy & Colleen Smith

Head Usher: John Ison

Key Deacon for Dec. transportation: Janet Parrish (785-223-0881)

Elder on call for the week of Dec. 15th: Barby Craft (785-238-1384)

We Welcome to the Pulpit this morning Thad Holcombe, retired as Campus Minister of the Ecumenical Campus ministries at KU in 2013. He holds a B.D. in Biblical Studies and a Th.M. in Clinical Psychology and Pastoral Counseling - both degrees from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He also completed a sabbatical study program on Environmental Studies and Religion at Trinity University, San Antonio. In retirement he serves as Moderator for the First Presbyterian of Lawrence EcoTeam, Moderator for the LETUS (Lawrence Ecology Teams United in Sustainability) and Convener for the Lawrence Interfaith Alliance.

Thad is married to Linda Joy Watts, retired School Social Worker and has two daughters. He was raised on a ranch in Oklahoma in "tall grass country" of Osage County - a county directly south of Sedan, Kansas. In his youth he was a member of Pawhuska First Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Oklahoma State University and was selected to be in the Junior Year Abroad Program of the Presbyterian Church and was enrolled at the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, India.

Acolytes for next week are Brock and Morgan Nabus. If you are able to help on any of the upcoming weeks please sign your children up. **Please** remember to put your child's first and last name as they will be listed in the bulletin. Please contact Lisa Nabus, Acolyte Coordinator with any questions.

Reminder today is Bell Sunday.

Today's anthem is a gift to the Glory of God and in honor and memory of E. J. Rolfs.

Today is our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange! After service, stop by the parlor and fill a plate full of Christmas cookies. We'll provide the "to-go" containers. *Mission/Evangelism Committee*

Reminder that **tonight our MS/HS Youth will have their Christmas party** and progressive dinner starting here at the church at 5:30 pm. Remember to bring your \$5 or less "white elephant" gift. Hope to see you there.

Per Capita for 2020 will be \$35.00.

All Church Caroling-everyone is invited to join our youth as they go caroling this Wednesday, December 18th at Brookdale Senior Living Center. We will leave from the church at 6:30 and arrive back at 7:30. We will have cookies and hot cocoa with the residents after caroling.

Christmas Eve Service will start at 6:40 pm with pre-service music, followed by service at 7:00 pm. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring children of all ages to this worship service. Nursery will **not be offered Christmas Eve.**

There will be No Christian Education Classes during Winter Break (which includes 12/22, 12/25, 12/29 and 1/1) to include Sunday School, Children's Church and JAM.

Parents of children K-5 we need candle lighters for the Christmas Eve service. Please see Margaret Kilpatrick if your child will be able to participate. There will be 2 practices in the sanctuary: December 15th & 22nd at 9:30 am.

Can you host an after-church coffee fellowship? We have openings beginning December 29. If you have questions, please contact Annette Ray at 210-4490. Thank you, Fellowship/Evangelism Committee

Morgan Ziegler, daughter of Michelle and Kenny Ziegler and Granddaughter of Sharon and John Strain, Sue and Roger Lawson, and Betty and Rick Ziegler, graduated from Kansas State University yesterday, December 14th, Magna Cum Laude with Bachelor of Science degrees from the College of Business in Finance and from the College of Human Ecology in Financial Planning. She was also chosen for the Outstanding Senior Award.

If your term of service as an Elder or Deacon is ending, please turn your notebooks in to your Chairperson or the Church Office. Thank You.

Bible Studies-We have Wednesday bible studies at 12:30 pm or 6:15 pm. There is also a Thursday bible study that meets at members' homes on the last Thursday of the month.

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

If you have information you would like in the **January** newsletter please let the church office know by Friday, December 20th. You may also email your information to office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

If you have information you would like in the **bulletin** please let the church office know by Wednesday morning before the Sunday you would like it included. You may call 238-1191 or email your information to office.fpcjc@gmail.com.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday

8:30 am Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal
9:30 am Sunday School (Ages 4yo to Adult)
9:30 am Christmas Eve Candle lighting Practice
10:45 am Worship, child care available
After Service Cookie Exchange
5:30 pm MS/HS Progressive Dinner

Monday

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday

7:00 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday

12:30 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm Recovery Harbor
6:15 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm J.A.M. Caroling
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm AA Meeting

Thursday

5:00 pm Weight Watchers

Saturday

12:30 pm Recovery Harbor

Sunday

8:30 am Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal
9:30 am Sunday School (Adult Only)
9:30 am Christmas Eve Candle lighting Practice
10:45 am Worship, child care available