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**10:30am Worship Service**

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS****PRELUDE** *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* arr. Wilbur Held**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** Bob and Jean Humphreys**INTROIT** *How Great Our Joy!* Hugo Jungst  
Chancel Choir\***HYMN #249** *O Come, All Ye Faithful***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy, we confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love. We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed. We forget that, in Your sight, none of us is lovely. We find it hard to love our loved ones without bending, manipulating or otherwise using them. We forget that, with You, love means acceptance first. And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly; and that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of Your love, offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little child. Forgive us, merciful Lord, for His sake. *(Silent Confession)*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**\***GLORIA PATRI #813**\***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The First Creed – Ephesians 4:4-7 NKJV *(Unison)*

There is **One Body, and One Spirit, even as we are called in One Hope of our calling — One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One God and Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in all. Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Amen.**

**ANTHEM** *Heard About a Newborn King* David Lantz III  
Chancel Choir**PASTORAL PRAYER****RESPONSE** *Come Lord Jesus* R. P. Curtis**OFFERTORY** *“Gesu Bambino”*  
Sue Mesler, Flutist\***DOXOLOGY #815**\***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Let our giving, gracious God, be not the end point but rather the beginning. Let our gifts of love and gratitude travel where we do not, making pathways of hope where there is none. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 61:1-3**MESSAGE** *Good News – For the Prisoners* Pastor Steve Mock\***HYMN #270** *Joy to the World!*\***BENEDICTION**\***RESPONSE** *Come, Holy Child* R. P. Curtis

\*Please stand, if able

Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.  
CCLI #1140231 CVLI #502319310

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**9:00am New Beginnings Service**

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**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Sing Noel*  
New Beginnings Praise Team**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**\***PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
*The Birthday of a King***PRAYER****OFFERING** *The First Noel***SPECIAL MUSIC** *Never Been A Night*  
New Beginnings Praise Team**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 61:1-3**MESSAGE** *Good News – For the Prisoners* Pastor Steve Mock\***CLOSING SONG** *Joyful Medley*

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**MINISTRY OF PRAYER**

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***Prayer Focus***

- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for those who serve in the military and their families during the war against terrorism.
- Pray for our church and new denomination as we seek ways to reach the lost and needy in our community and world.
- Pray for Charlotte County, for revival and renewal as part of Prayers Over Charlotte initiated by the Sunday Night Prayer meeting
- Pray for Rob and Jennifer Taylor, missionaries to Zambia, that we support.

***Those who Grieve***

- Pray for Don Rebholz on the loss of his brother, Rodney Rebholz, on November 20th, 2015
- Pray for Diane Tabert and family on the loss of her husband, Fred, on December 4th, 2015

***Those with Special Needs***

Jerry & Nancy Julius	Rev. Larry Yerger
Helmut Ehrhardt	Helen Anderson
Kay Callahan	Arlene Gebel
Ella Sifferd	Carol Foster
Dianne Sizemore	Nancy Beasom
Cara Coletti	

***Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes***

Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Dorothy Blue, <i>Harbor Terrace</i>
Lorraine Sisson, <i>Saginaw, MI</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Doris Henning, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>	John Milligan, <i>Sandhill Gardens</i>

*Please keep the office updated concerning your requests.  
Requests will be listed for 4 weeks and then removed unless updated.*

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***Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service******CELL PHONES*** – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.***FLOWERS*** – The flowers this morning are given by Georgia Cherny in memory of her mother, Bernice Cash.***DECEMBER NEWSLETTER*** is available in the foyer and on our website.**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

***DEACONS FUND OFFERING TODAY*** – our monthly collection which supports our efforts to help congregation needs, emergency needs, Misión Peniel Spanish devotionals, and others.

***PRAYER MEETING*** – A prayer meeting is held **Sunday evenings at 6pm** in the Conference Room. Come and be a part of what God’s Spirit is doing in our church and community.

***CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – THIS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 7:00PM.***

***GAME ACTIVITY*** – Game Morning activity **will NOT meet this Tuesday, December 22nd.**

***BIBLE STUDY AT FPCPG*** – Pastor Larry is leading a study on the Book of Ezekiel **Wednesday mornings at 10am.** The study is open to everyone.

***CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED*** – Thursday and Friday, December 24th and 25th.

***PLEDGE CARD*** – If you haven’t returned your pledge card for 2016, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you.

***YEAR-END GIVING*** – To make sure your giving for 2015 gets credited for 2015, please have your offering/gift to the church by December 31, 2015. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one’s 2016 giving.

***2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE*** – The 2016 offering envelope boxes are now available for you to pick up on the table in the foyer. If you don’t see your name; or if you haven’t used envelopes in the past, but would like to, let the office know and we’ll assign a box of envelopes for you to use.

***HELP NEEDED*** - Fellowship Committee is looking for one or two people to oversee the kitchen. This consists of checking supplies, putting items away, and keeping the kitchen as uncluttered as possible. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Beasom at 505-9383 or Gail Thornton 916-1726.

***CPR CLASS*** – Beginning in January 2016, we will hold Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation classes. If you would like to learn more about CPR, please sign up in the church foyer. Debbie Carney, our former Parish Nurse, will coordinate scheduling the class dates and times.

***LOAVES AND FISHES MINISTRY*** – Are you interested in making a meal when there is a short-term need in the congregation due to an illness or loss? Are you willing to deliver a meal that someone else has fixed? If so, please call the church office to volunteer.

***HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL*** – Our next mission trip to Immokalee will be **Friday, January 22nd.** We will carpool from the church at 12:15pm. Call Dianne Sizemore or the church office to volunteer. Donations of ***gently used blankets, sheets, towels, long-sleeve t-shirts and regular shirts*** can be put in the wicker basket in the church foyer.

***CROSSROADS MINISTRY*** – AMI KIDS Crossroads is in need of operating funds. To donate, please make checks payable to the church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”

***MISSIONARY SUPPORT*** – We are financially supporting the Taylor family in their 2-year commitment in Zambia, Africa. Please pray for them. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make checks payable to the church and on the memo line write “Taylor Family.”

***PLEASE BRING IN FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY*** - Let us see the blue food bin

overflowing each week. **Some suggestions: peanut butter, jelly, cereal and soup.**

**FURRY FRIENDS** – Our furry friends need your help! In the church foyer there is a green tub where you can put dog and cat food, animal toys and gently used blankets and towels. For questions, ask Randy or Diane Curtis.

**PRAYER EMAIL LIST** – If you would like to be on Pastor Steve’s prayer email list, please email Pastor Steve at [steve@fpcpunta.org](mailto:steve@fpcpunta.org).

**OUR DAILY BREAD** – This booklet of daily devotionals is on the back table in the Sanctuary.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** – Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at [rpc1220@me.com](mailto:rpc1220@me.com). We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To gain access to this page, please email Randy. Live streaming of services is available on our website homepage ([www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)) by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE.

**THE FELLOWSHIP TEAM** requests your comments & suggestions for our activities. An “idea box” is on the sign-up table in the church foyer.

**FLOWERS** – May be sponsored for the cost of \$37. To make a donation, sign up in the church foyer. You may list the flowers in honor and/or in memory of something or someone.

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#### EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

December 20th thru December 27th

<u>Sunday, December 20</u> 6:00pm	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> Prayer Meeting
<u>Monday, December 21</u> 2:00pm	Session
<u>Tuesday, December 22</u> 7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<u>Wednesday, December 23</u> 10:00am	Bible Study
<u>Thursday, December 24</u> 7:00pm	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> Candlelight Communion Service
<u>Friday, December 25</u>	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<u>Sunday, December 27</u> 9:00am 10:30am 6:00pm	<i>New Beginnings</i> Worship Traditional Worship & <i>Cantata</i> Prayer Meeting

## SERMON NOTES

**Isaiah 61:1-3 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup>and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Loving...Growing...Going...in Jesus!*



# ECO

A Covenant Order  
of Evangelical  
Presbyterians

### OUR VISION AND PURPOSE

**LOVING...**

*... God and others through worship and fellowship*

**GROWING...**

*... in our understanding Jesus’ and God’s purposes for us through Bible study, and developing our ministries to serve God and others*

**GOING...**

*... into God’s world with His message of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, and with His ministries of compassion and mercy*

**ALL IN JESUS’ NAME!**

**ECO’S VISION**

*... to build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ*

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December 20, 2015

9:00am & 10:30am

### WELCOME

This morning as we join in worship, our hope is that each of us will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad to welcome each visitor and friend, and that you have chosen to hear God’s call with this congregation. If you are living in this area, either permanently or for the season, we invite you to join hands in ministry with us by becoming a covenant partner of our congregation.

**PASTOR**  
**ASSISTANT PASTOR**  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE MANAGER**  
**LITURGIST**  
**USHERS**

Rev. Steve Mock  
Rev. Larry Yerger  
Randall Curtis  
Debbie Rostad  
David Sifferd  
Sharon Russell, Mary Anne Washabaugh,  
Georgia Cherny, Joe Cherny

25250 Airport Road  
Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
941-639-1959 (phone)  
941-637-3763 (fax)

Email: [first@fpcpunta.org](mailto:first@fpcpunta.org)

Office hours: 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday – Friday

Website: [www.fpcpunta.org](http://www.fpcpunta.org)