

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10:30am Worship Service

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Come, All Ye Faithful* arr. John F. Wade

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Joe & Georgia Cherny

INTROIT *Angels from the Realms of Glory* arr. Jack Schrader
Chancel Choir

***HYMN #277** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

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** Taken from the Nicene Creed *(Unison)*

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. Amen.

ANTHEM *Love Came Down at Christmas* arr. Joel Raney
Chancel Choir

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE *Come, Child of Hope* Randall Curtis

OFFERTORY *In the Bleak Mid Winter* arr. Tom Fettke

*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 11:1-10

MESSAGE *Root of Jesse* Rev. Steve Mock

***HYMN #270** *Joy to the World!*

*BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE** *Sing We Now of Christmas* Traditional French Carol
Hearing assist devices are available at the tech booth – please feel free to ask for one.

CCLI #1140231 CVLI #502319310

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30am service

9:00am New Beginnings Service

SPECIAL MUSIC *Rejoice with Joy to the World*
New Beginnings Praise Team

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Ron & Nancy Beasom

***PRAISING GOD IN SONG** *Go Tell It On the Mountain*
The First Noel
Away in a Manger Medley

PRAYER

OFFERING *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Christmastime*
New Beginnings Praise Team

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-10

MESSAGE *Root of Jesse* Rev. Steve Mock

***CLOSING SONG** *Joy to the World*

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

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.
- The family of CCSO Sgt. Michael Wilson who was killed in the line of duty August 5, 2013 and the law enforcement officers who daily put their lives on the line for us.

Those Who Grieve

Those with Special Needs

Betty Stroth	Fred & Rachel Pfaender
Helmut Ehrhardt	Paul & Arlene Gebel
Joyce Kiskaddon	Rev. Larry Yerger
Adelaide Hauck	Ella Sifferd
Jerry & Nancy Julius	Rob & Jennifer Taylor & family
Kay Callahan	Doris Henning
Elizabeth Dunn	Marguerite O'Brien

Those who are in Assisted Living or Nursing Homes

Sarah Ferry, <i>Rosie's Adult Family Care</i>	Dorothy Blue, <i>Harbor Terrace</i>
Barbara Shinn, <i>The Palms of Punta Gorda</i>	Marion Brown, <i>Royal Palm</i>
Esther Wheeler, <i>Life Care Center</i>	

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

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CELL PHONES – Please remember to silence or turn off your mobile devices.

FLOWERS – The flowers this morning are given Sharon Russell & Richard Beck in honor of their 18th wedding anniversary.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE – 7PM

PRAYER SERVICE – A weekly prayer service is being offered on **Sunday evenings at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. Come and share in this experience of God's people praying together.

PLEDGE CARD – If you haven't returned your pledge card for 2015, we urge you do so as soon as possible. Extras can be found on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

YEAR-END GIVING – To make sure your giving for 2014 gets credited for 2014, you must have your offering/gift to the church before December 31, 2014. Any donations received after that date will be applied to one's 2015 giving.

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE – The 2015 offering envelope boxes are now available on the table in the foyer. Please pick yours up and if there isn't one with your name on it, please let the office know so we can get you your box. If you haven't used envelopes in the past, but would like to, let the office know and we'll get a box of offering envelopes for you to use.

BIBLE STUDY AT FPCPG – Participate in a Bible study with Rev. Larry Yerger every **Wednesday at 10am** involving in-depth discussions on a variety of Biblical topics and their relationship to current affairs. Our current study is the Book of Revelation. New attendees are always welcome to join us. **CLASS WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 7TH.**

HELP NEEDED!! FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND AT 10AM – Your help is needed to take down all the decorations that have made our church so beautiful this holiday season on Friday, Jan. 2nd at 10am. "Many hands make light work", so please sign-up at the table in the foyer.

HOLY LAND EXPERIENCE IN ORLANDO – The trip to the Holy Land Experience has been set up for **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**. The cost is \$75, which includes bus and admission; it's \$50 to rent a scooter. A sign-up sheet is available in the church entrance. If you have already signed up showing interest in going, you need to sign up again. (It was suggested that you bring a jacket because the theater is cool).

HELPING MISIÓN PENIEL – The migrants are in need of GENTLY USED BLANKETS, SHEETS AND TOWELS. They also need LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS AND REGULAR SHIRTS. Please put donations in the wicker basket in the church entrance. If you would like to volunteer on a Friday afternoon to help with serving the meal at Misión Peniel, talk to Dianne Sizemore. The next trip will be **Friday, January 23rd**, carpooling from the church at 12:15pm.

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

MISSIONARY SUPPORT – We are financially helping to support Rob and Jennifer Taylor and their four children in their 2-year commitment to the mission field in Zambia, Africa. Please pray for them. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make your check out to the church and in the memo line enter "Taylor Family." Thanks- your Mission Team.

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.**

AMI KIDS CROSSROADS – Crossroads is in need of operating funds. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and on the memo line write “Crossroads.”

OUR DAILY BREAD – Pick up a copy of this booklet of daily devotionals on the back table in the Sanctuary.

MUSIC MINISTRY - Special Music is available in an mp3 format by emailing Randy at rpc1220@me.com. We also have a private Facebook page where music and occasional videos are uploaded for your enjoyment. To be invited to this page please email Randy at rpc1220@me.com. Live streaming of both services are available on the Church's website homepage by clicking on the link: WATCH LIVE AND RECENT SERVICES HERE: www.fpcpunta.org. Your comments, thoughts and ideas are also welcome.

FLOWERS – May be funded for the **cost of \$37**. To make a donation, sign up at the sign-up table in the church lobby. If the flowers are in honor and/or in memory of something or someone, please put that on the sign-up sheet.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK
December 21st thru December 28th

Sunday, December 21 **4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**
6:00pm **Prayer Service**

Wednesday, December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
7:00pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

Thursday, December 25 **CHRISTMAS**
OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 28
9:00am **New Beginnings Worship**
10:30am **Traditional Worship**
6:00pm **Prayer Service**

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 11:1-10

- 1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
- 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
- 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- 6 The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
- 7 The cow will feed with the bear,

SERMON NOTES (Continued)

- their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- 8 The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
 - 9 They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.
 - 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the
nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

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

Email: first@fpcpunta.org
Office hours: 9:00am to 3:30pm Monday – Thursday
Closed Friday

Our Web Site can be found at: www.fpcpunta.org

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

December 21, 2014

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
PARISH NURSE
LITURGIST
USHERS

Rev. Steve Mock
Rev. Larry Yerger
Randall Curtis
Elizabeth Dunn
Debbie Carney
Ernie Lehman
Pat Patterson, Phyllis Richardson,
Linda Potthoff, Mary Anne Washabaugh