



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

**Forestgate Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God and make disciples of Christ  
in northern El Paso County:**

By **Exalting** our Lord in joyful biblical worship

By **Encouraging** each other to love and good deeds

By **Equipping** each other for service

By **Engaging** the culture around us

The Lord's Day, The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 16, 2018

Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m.  
Sunday School: 10 a.m.

# Order of Worship

*\*Indicates congregation standing, if able.*

## Welcome & Announcements:

Mr. Carl Bobb

**Welcome Visitors!** We are so glad you are here. Please feel free to find us at the Visitors Connection Table in the foyer after service or fill out a Guest Information Card. You'll find cards inserted in the bibles & hymnals under the sanctuary seats.

**We have a "Cry Room"** available with remote projection for those with small children finding sanctuary seating difficult to manage. The Cry Room is the far North-East Classroom.

**Prayer Requests:** Please use the back of the Guest Information Card to submit your prayer requests.

## Lighting of the Advent Candles:

<sup>8:30</sup>The Joshua Drake Family

<sup>11</sup>The Roger Browne Family

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts." Malachi 3:1

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Malachi 4:5-6

## \*Call to Worship

### "Come and Worship"

*Author: Bebo Norman Publisher: New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.) Appstreet Music (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc Copyright Year: 2007 Song Number: 5100062*

**Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth**

**Come and worship  
Come and worship**

**Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Shepherds in the fields abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant light**

**Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Saints before the alter bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In his temple shall appear**

**Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King**

**\*Invocation:**

Mr. Carl Bobb

**\*Hymn of Praise: "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"**

#230

*Author: Frank Houghton, Paul Campbell Publisher: Words: 1934 OMF International (UK) Music: Arlon Songs Ltd (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) (Admin. by Wixen Music Publishing, Inc.) Copyright Year: 1934 Song Number: 7053323*

**Thou who wast rich  
Beyond all splendour  
All for love's sake**

**Becamest poor**

**Thrones for a manger  
Didst surrender  
Sapphire-paved courts  
For stable floor**

**Thou who wast rich  
Beyond all splendour  
All for love's sake  
Becamest poor**

**Thou who art God  
Beyond all praising  
All for love's sake  
Becamest man**

**Stooping so low  
But sinners raising  
Heavenwards by Thine  
Eternal plan**

**Thou who art God  
Beyond all praising  
All for love's sake  
Becamest man**

**Thou who art love  
Beyond all telling  
Saviour and King  
We worship Thee**

**Emmanuel  
Within us dwelling  
Make us what Thou  
Wouldst have us be**

**Thou who art love  
Beyond all telling  
Saviour and King  
We worship Thee**

**Confession of Sin:**

Luke 3:14

Rev. Matt Giesman

Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Hebrews 7:25

Rev. Matt Giesman

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**\*Song of Assurance:****“Thy Mercy, My God”**

Author: John Stocker, Sandra McCracken Publisher: Words: Public Domain | Music: 2001 Same Old Dress Music | (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Copyright Year: 2001 Song Number: 3422560

*Please pass completed guest information/prayer cards to the aisles.*

**Thy mercy my God  
Is the theme of my song  
The joy of my heart  
And the boast of my tongue**

**Thy free grace alone  
From the first to the last  
Hath won my affections  
And bound my soul fast**

**Without Thy sweet mercy  
I could not live here  
Sin would reduce me  
To utter despair**

**But through Thy free goodness  
My spirits revive  
And He that first made me  
Still keeps me alive**

**Thy mercy is more  
Than a match for my heart  
Which wonders to feel  
Its own hardness depart**

**Dissolved by Thy goodness**

I fall to the ground  
And weep for the praise  
Of the mercy I found

Great Father of mercies  
Thy goodness I own  
And the covenant love  
Of Thy crucified Son

All praise to the Spirit  
Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon  
And righteousness mine

All praise to the Spirit  
Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon  
And righteousness mine

## **Affirmation of Faith: Westminster Shorter Catechism #22**

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

**ALL:** 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, and born of her, yet without sin.

## **Dedication of Tithes & Offerings:**

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

*For Tithes and Offerings: we do not regularly pass a collection plate in the service. Instead, there is a box located at the rear of the sanctuary in which you may place your tithes and offerings. Envelopes for cash offerings are located adjacent to the offering box.*

## **Congregational Prayer:**

Mr. David Edling

*Children ages 3-6 may now be dismissed to Children's Church.*

## **\*Song of Preparation:**

## **“Speak, O Lord”**

*Author: Keith Getty, Stuart Townend Publisher: Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Copyright Year: 2005*

**Speak O Lord**

**As we come to You**

**To receive the food**

**Of Your holy word**

**Take Your truth**

**Plant it deep in us**

**Shape and fashion us**

**In Your likeness**

**That the light of Christ**

**Might be seen today**

**In our acts of love**

**And our deeds of faith**

**Speak O Lord, and fulfill in us**

**All Your purposes for Your glory**

**Teach us Lord**

**Full obedience**

**Holy reverence**

**True humility**

**Test our thoughts**

**And our attitudes**

**In the radiance**

**Of Your purity**

**Cause our faith to rise**

**Cause our eyes to see**

**Your majestic love and authority**

**Words of power that can never fail**

**Let their truth prevail over unbelief**

**Speak O Lord**

**And renew our minds**

**Help us grasp the heights**

**Of Your plans for us**

**Truths unchanged**

**From the dawn of time**

**That will echo down  
Through eternity**

**And by grace we'll stand  
On Your promises  
And by faith we'll walk  
As You walk with us**

**Speak O Lord, till Your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory**

**Proclamation of the Word:**

*"After Darkness, Light"*

Rev. Matt Giesman

*Luke 1:67-80 pp. 856-857 of the ESV pew Bible*

**Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

**"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"**

#211

**God rest ye merry gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Savior  
Was born on Christmas Day**

**To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
When we were gone astray**

**O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy**

**From God our heavn'ly Father  
A blessed angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same**

**How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name**

**O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy**

Fear not then said the angel  
Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure virgin bright

To free all those who trust in him  
From Satan's pow'r and might

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind  
And left their flocks afeeding  
In tempest storm and wind

And went to Bethlehem straightway  
The Son of God to find

O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

**\*Benediction:**

Rev. Matt Giesman

**Greeting & Postlude:**

Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

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*Accompanist: Miss Emily Moore. All scriptures listed in English Standard Version. Music by permission: CCLI# 1211335.*

# **Sermon Notes**

## *“After Darkness, Light”*

**Luke 1:67-80**

5 Blessings that the birth of John the Baptist brings to God’s people. It is:

**1) A sign of God’s salvation, vv67-71**

**2) A confirmation of God’s covenant, vv72-73**

**3) A freedom to worship God fearlessly, vv73-75**

**4) A prophet to prepare the Lord’s way, vv76-78**

**5) A lesser light pointing to the Greatest Light, vv78-80**

Reflection questions:

1. What did first-century Israel most want to be delivered from? What do you most want deliverance from? What do you think God most wants to deliver you from?
2. Why did God deliver His people? (See Lk. 1:74-75) Also read Psalm 67 and compare this passage to the first line of our church’s mission statement (see the front of your bulletin).
3. Why does God use poetry to teach truth to us? Why doesn’t he just tell us the facts in a more straightforward way? (Try summarizing vv.78-79 without poetry and see which version is more memorable. Try the same thing with Psalm 23:1 and 2 Samuel 23:1-5.)

# Prayer & Praise

December 16, 2018

We appreciate your assistance in keeping this information timely. To include here or update, email [office@forestgate.org](mailto:office@forestgate.org), check the box on prayer card or indicate on prayer chain emails to include here.

**Our Military** Cpt. Janelle Baron — daughter of Jeff & Karen, Air National Guard

Cpt. David Hickle – Cpt. David Hickle: USAF F-16. Fairbanks, AK. David, wife Emily, children Ben, Abby & Lily.

Derek Smith – Deployed to Afghanistan

**Missionaries of the Month:** Diane Alfonso – BEE World Missions

## Prayers & Praises

**Matthews Family** – Healing and medical management for Lily's papilledema and cerebral hypertension.

**Lewis Family** – Praise for the birth of Charlotte Selah Lewis to Brian and Keala December 13 at 8:35 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz and measuring 20.25 inches. Mom and baby are doing well!

**Ng Family** – Praise for healthy birth of son, Jeremy, (6 pounds, 7 ounces) to parents, Raymond & Veronica on Sunday, December 2. Mother and baby are doing well.

**Oderman Family** – For son, Rob, who had back fusion surgery on December 14. For a successful outcome that would reduce the pain that he has had for a number of years.

**Pearson Family** – Prayers for Henry's continued development. Thank you for your prayers for all the family.

**Stuart Family** – For Deena and family as they grieve the death of Bob Stuart, our former interim pastor.

**Jim Urish** – <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimurish>. Prostate cancer - healing. Chemotherapy.

**Prayer Chain** - To send requests or be included on the email list, contact [prayer@forestgate.org](mailto:prayer@forestgate.org)

## FAQ Announcements

- **Are there Online Bulletins & Sermon Recordings?** These are available directly at [www.forestgate.org](http://www.forestgate.org) via the membership resources tab at the bottom of the home page.
- **How Do I Get Announcement Highlights by Email?** Complete an Information Card with your email, sign up at the Connection Table or sign up via [forestgate.org](http://forestgate.org) for our mailing list. Community Items only by email.
- **Do You Have a Photo Directory?** Go to [forestgate.org/myinfo](http://forestgate.org/myinfo) to connect with us. Password for the online Photo Directory is solagratia.
- **How Can I Know about Weather Cancellations?**  
**For Worship Service Cancellations:** • Check email, website & Facebook. (*Email is sent to weekly announcement list*) • Do not call – phone message may not change!
- **How Do I Schedule an Event at the Church?**  
Contact Event Coordinator Becca Stanton at [ec@forestgate.org](mailto:ec@forestgate.org).
- **How Do I Join a Community Group?** The best way to connect at FPC is by joining one of our Community groups. Visit the Connection table or contact Pastor Steve: [steven.stanton@forestgate.org](mailto:steven.stanton@forestgate.org).

# This Sunday

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date &amp; Details</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Sunday School	10 a.m.	
Adult Sunday School Class	<i>"God's Unchanging Character" by Dr. Jimmy Covey</i>	
Baptist Road Small Group	5 p.m. at the Woodruff home.	Alan Hemphill: <a href="mailto:algehemp65@mac.com">algehemp65@mac.com</a>

# This Week

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date &amp; Details</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Triple B Prayer Group	"Triple B"—The Band of Broken Brothers—meets Mondays 6-7 a.m. in the double classroom.	Contact Steve Brandt <a href="mailto:steve.s.brandt@gmail.com">steve.s.brandt@gmail.com</a>
Christmas Choir Rehearsal	Mondays from 6-7 p.m. in the sanctuary.	Contact Music Director Stephen Baran <a href="mailto:music@forestgate.org">music@forestgate.org</a> .
Youth Group Ages 12-High School	Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. Double Classroom ( <i>no meeting Dec 19 &amp; 26</i> )	Contact Jeff Baron, youth leader. Jeff Baron <a href="mailto:jbaron663@gmail.com">jbaron663@gmail.com</a>
Young Adult Group Ages over 18	Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Studying the Book of Acts. North East Classroom.	Albert Taglieri <a href="mailto:adtag4@gmail.com">adtag4@gmail.com</a> 717-698-5080
Mom's & Kid's Cookie Decorating	Thursday 9-11 a.m. at Giesman home.	RSVP <a href="mailto:lizgiesman@forestgate.org">lizgiesman@forestgate.org</a>
Men's Bible Study	Fri. 6:30-8:15 a.m. Double Classroom	Join us for a study of the Gospel of Luke, prayer, fellowship, and coffee. Contact Dick Barthels <a href="mailto:dbarthels@gmail.com">dbarthels@gmail.com</a>

# Highlights

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date &amp; Details</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Holiday Receptions	In lieu of Sunday School on December 20 & 30 there will be holiday receptions with light refreshments between services. See you there.	
Who's Coming to Dinner? <i>Consider being a part of a group!</i>	The Koinonia Connection Ministry Team will be coordinating dinner groups of 8-10 adults to have an opportunity to get to know each other better while enjoying good food and encouraging conversation. <b>Sign-up now at <a href="https://forestgate.org/dinners">https://forestgate.org/dinners</a>; groups will kick-off in January</b> with new groups forming each quarter.	
Forestgate Moms FB Group	<a href="https://forestgate.org/moms">https://forestgate.org/moms</a>	Contact Liz Giesman at <a href="mailto:lizgiesman@gmail.com">lizgiesman@gmail.com</a>

December 23 & 30

Enjoy a Holiday Reception  
both of these Sundays  
between services in lieu of  
Sunday School



Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Services  
5 & 7 pm

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Matt Giesman, [matthew.giesman@forestgate.org](mailto:matthew.giesman@forestgate.org)  
Assistant Pastor: Rev. Steve Stanton, [steven.stanton@forestgate.org](mailto:steven.stanton@forestgate.org)  
Ruling Elders: Mr. David Edling, Mr. Bruce Harrington, Mr. Alan Hemphill, & Mr. Chris Odell  
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Music Director: Mr. Stephen Baran, [music@forestgate.org](mailto:music@forestgate.org)  
Events Coordinator: Mrs. Becca Stanton [ec@forestgate.org](mailto:ec@forestgate.org)