

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Leek

**\*RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION**

Emmanuel

Sufficient Grace & Congregation

**POSTLUDE** – When In Our Music God is Glorified

Carole Makus

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Betty Palmer  
Steve Weller

**Deacons**

Marie Davids  
Deb Kruse  
Brooks Logan  
Brian Miller  
Betty Ransom  
Linda Stafford



# First Presbyterian Church of Leesburg

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:00 a.m.



Disciples Making Disciples



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# ***THE LITURGY FOR GATHERING***

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. RJ Leek

## **PRELUDE** – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Chancel Choir

## **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE**

Betty Ransom, Donna Inskip &  
Sunday School Class

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

\*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

\*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

Sufficient Grace & Congregation

Sufficient Grace & Congregation

Sufficient Grace & Congregation

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Responsive)

Keith & Peggy Haines, Lay Leaders

When we stand at the edge of fear and worry,

**God invites us to step into the waters of faith and trust.**

When we stand at the edge of the world's pain and need,

**Jesus invites us to step into the land of humble service.**

When we stand at the edge of our hunger and thirst:

**The Spirit invites us to sit at the Table of grace.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** (Unison)

Keith & Peggy Haines, Lay Leaders

**Hear the good news!**

**Christ died for us,**

**Christ rose for us,**

**Christ reigns in power for us,**

**Christ prays for us.**

**Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.**

**The old life has gone; a new life has begun.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

Rev. Leek

## **ADVENTURE TIME**

Dick Krase



\*Please stand, if able.

## **\*APOSTLES CREED**

Keith & Peggy Haines, Lay Leaders

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

# ***THE LITURGY OF THE WORD***

## **WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING**

### **Offering**

Advent Cry

Chancel Choir

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, Ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Keith & Peggy Haines, Lay Leaders

## **PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Leek

### **Our Lord's Prayer**

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

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

Keith & Peggy Haines, Lay Leader

Isaiah 64: 1-9; Mark 13: 24-37

## **THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Rev. RJ Leek

"Penitence and Honesty"

## **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

The First Noel We Long to Hear

Sufficient Grace

## **DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS**

(Remainder of Worship Service order is on the back of the bulletin.)

## **First Presbyterian Happenings:**

### **TODAY, December 3, 2023**

There will be a short meeting today after church in the Sanctuary to answer questions and tie up any “loose ends” for Central Florida Presbytery December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff and volunteers are asked to attend.



### **Monday, December 4, 2023**

Men’s Breakfast, Perkins Restaurant, Hwy. 27 & SR 48, South Leesburg, 7:30 a.m., no reservations needed. Just come.

### **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

TOPS Weight Loss Support Group, Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.

Sufficient Grace Practice, Sanctuary, 10 a.m.

Staff Meeting, Office, 11 a.m.

Chancel Choir Practice, Choir Room, 3:30 p.m.

Joyful Ringers Practice, Choir Room, 5 p.m.

### **Joining Hands In Food Ministry**

Our joint food ministry with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church needs peanut butter and canned fruit. They are also requesting Little Debbie Christmas Tree snack cakes to give out on the **December 8<sup>th</sup> distribution date.** Carts/boxes are available in the lobby for drop-off.

### **Salvation Army Angel Tree**

There are 14 tags left on the Angel Tree. Can you provide a Christmas gift to a local child? Due December 10<sup>th</sup> at church. Do not wrap present(s). Place gift(s) in a bag.

### **An Advent Message from Rev. Leek:**

Amidst the twinkling lights and festive joy, let's anchor our hearts in the profound hope that Christmas brings. In the Gospel of Luke 2:10-11, the angelic proclamation resounds, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." This is the crux of our hope—the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

As we exchange gifts and share in the warmth of the season, let's remember that the greatest gift arrived in a humble manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. The hope born that night transcends the ephemeral and points to an eternal promise—a promise of redemption, renewal, and everlasting joy. This Christmas, let the light of Christ illuminate not just our homes but our hearts, filling us with a hope that endures beyond the holiday season.

Hope is the first candle in our Advent wreath. May it be a constant reminder our hope is in the eternal presence of our God. Blessings be abundant!



## *Holiday Celebrations*

First Presbyterian Church Annual Christmas Concert  
“Celebrate the Prince of Peace”  
Choir joined by singers from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
First Pres Worship Center  
Sunday, December 3, 2023  
4 p.m.

Joint Hand Bell Concert with First Presbyterian Church &  
St. Timothy’s Catholic Church  
1351 Paige Place, Lady Lake, FL 32159, 352-753-0989  
Sunday, December 10, 2023  
2 p.m.

First Presbyterian Joyful Ringers  
Hand Bell Christmas Concert  
“Christmas Bells are Ringing”  
First Pres Worship Center  
Sunday, December 17, 2023  
4 p.m.

First Presbyterian Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Service  
First Pres Worship Service  
Sunday, December 24, 2023  
6 p.m.

