

Worship at First Presbyterian Church
The FIRST week of Advent
Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 10 am

*"Look at my Servant, whom I have chosen. He is my Beloved, who pleases me. . . .
And his name will be the **hope** of all the world." (Matthew 12:18-21)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #9: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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HYMN #40: JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders, of His love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

God of Light and Life,
 As we prepare our hearts this Advent,
 at the end of a trying year,
 we are painfully aware of our need for a Savior.

**We've spent hours debating our neighbor
 but have failed to care for them.**

We've said you're the God who supplies all our needs,
 but look to our possessions for security when our world turns upside down.

**We express our concerns for those in need, and the homeless,
 but turn our eyes from the overlooked in front of us.**

We talk about, sing about, reflect on your kingship over all creation
 but we confess we have not really been looking forward to Your kingdom.

**We look for light, but too often find only darkness—
 and sometimes we prefer the darkness to the light.**

Forgive us, Lord, for these and our other sins.

This Advent we wait for you with a sobering awareness
 of our humanity and hypocrisy.

And yet we are filled with hope, peace, joy, and love
 as we look forward to your coming.

You are (still) pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.

Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.

We wait in hope for your coming. Amen.

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

DUET: O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Til He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the **WEARY WORLD REJOICES**,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.

So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from Orient land.

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials **born to be our friend.**

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,

Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;

His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;

And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,

His power and glory evermore proclaim.

His power and glory evermore proclaim.

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: "A Weary World Rejoices: Long Lay the World . . ."

Luke 1:67-79

Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

⁶⁸ "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.

⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,

⁷⁰ just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.

⁷² He has been merciful to our ancestors
by remembering his sacred covenant—

- ⁷³ the covenant he swore with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.
- ⁷⁴ We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve God without fear,
- ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
for as long as we live.
- ⁷⁶ “And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
because you will prepare the way for the Lord.
- ⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.
- ⁷⁸ Because of God’s tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,
- ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace.”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
our deacons’ provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

Communion

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
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 sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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HYMN #48: LO HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,

Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
- Tuesday, Dec. 3** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
- Wednesday, Dec. 4** Quilting Group (10:30 – 2:30)
- Saturday, Dec. 7** Greening the Sanctuary (9:00 – ?)
Christmas Open House (6:30 pm)
- Sunday, Dec. 8** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Congregational Meeting (after the 10:00 service)
- LOOKING AHEAD** Sunday, December 15: Choir Cantata
(Share the Good News: He is Born!)

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