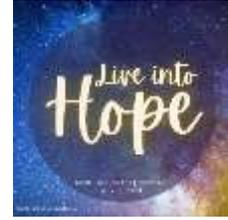


**THE ORDER FOR THE
WORSHIP OF GOD AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10:30 AM ~ November 28, 2021**



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

If you are visiting First Presbyterian Church for the first time, welcome! We encourage you to fill out the Visitor's Card, located in the back of the pews, and drop it in the model church/offering box on your way out of worship this morning. Your doing so will give us a way to reach out and begin to know you.

PRELUDE

"Divinum mysterium"

arr. Wilbur Held

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WELCOME & GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Lamentations 3:21–25)

*One: Friends, this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.*

ALL: God's mercies never come to an end.

One: They are new every morning.

ALL: Great is God's faithfulness.

One: The Lord is my portion.

ALL: Therefore, I will hope in God.

*One: The Lord is good to those who wait for God, to the soul that seeks God.
Let us worship God together.*

***HYMN #83**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

[If you are fully vaccinated, please join in singing. Others, please dwell with the text in your heart and mind and quietly hum along as the leader sings.]

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Venita Baker, JoAnn Koch, Jamie Leavens and Gilda Mitchell representing the Adult Sunday School Class

Leader 1: Where do we hear of hope?

Leader 2: In a deep and caring church group discussion. From the mouths of young people.

*Leader 3: Through the reassuring words of a caregiver.
Hearing the name of a newcomer in our midst.*

Leader 1: *Those who listen and place their hope in the Lord,*
Pulpit side: **will renew their strength,**
Choir side: **and mount up with wings like eagles.**
Leader 1: *Surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,*
Pulpit side: **plans for your welfare and not for harm,**
Choir side: **to give you a future with hope.**
Leader 1: *On this first Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to hear hope.*

(The first purple candle is lit)

ADVENT HYMN #772, v.1

1 Live into hope of captives freed,
of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see
the year of God's own jubilee!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSIION

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves. We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, and know him, and rejoice.

(A moment for silent meditation and confession.)

HYMN #103

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

2 Come now, O God of love;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

4 Come, hope of unity;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Kindred in Christ, the promise is true: God loves us. God forgives us. God is coming to us even now to save us. Thanks be to God.

ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

THE PEACE

*GLORIA PATRI (Refrain from #113)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"The Apostles' Creed"

(Traditional)

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.

(* In this context, the word "catholic" means "universal")

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM

"Savior of the Nations, Come"
fourth-century text; music by Richard M. Walsh
Sanctuary Choir; Jiha Choi, Organ

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-4

SECOND READING

Luke 1:5-25

SERMON

"Hear Hope"
The first sermon in an Advent series titled, *"Hope."*

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Crilley

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

*HYMN #850

"In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"

[If you are fully vaccinated, please join in singing. Others, please dwell with the text in your heart and mind and quietly hum along as the leader sings.]

1 In a deep, unbounded darkness,
long before the first light shone,
you, O God, beyond all merit
worked a wonder faith makes known:
in your mercy, in your mercy,
you embraced us as your own,
evermore and evermore.

3 Joy transforms our lips to boasting
only in your matchless grace,
sending Christ to dwell among us,
Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,
in whose life we glimpse your face,
evermore and evermore.

2 Though our world is ever-changing,
you are constant, firm, and sure,
faithful to your covenant promise.
Trusting you, we live, secure:
singing praises, singing praises,
long as heart and breath endure,
evermore and evermore.

4 God of Hagar, God of Sarah,
God of nomad Abraham;
God of Miryam, God of Moses,
Fiery Pillar, great I am:
lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
to the love-feast of the Lamb,
evermore and evermore.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come"*

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare"

Michael Helman

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**Congregation standing or seated*

Liturgy this week is from Beth Merrill Neel, www.holdfasttowhatisgood.com

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FIND IN THIS WEEK'S NARTHEX NEWS

To Read More Scan Here:

WAYS TO GIVE

In Christ, God has showered us with grace upon grace. In gratitude, we now give back to God through our tithes and offerings.

Monetary offerings may be given electronically or in the vessels at each exit. To make a contribution electronically, please scan the QR Code below.



HOW TO LOG YOUR ATTENDANCE

We are changing the way we keep attendance. You may now 1) “check-in” your entire household with the push of a button on your membership app; 2) Write your names on a slip of paper and drop in the collection vessels; 3) scan the QR Code below which will take you to a simple form (this works well for first time visitors).

