

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to worship the Lord our God.
All: **We come to worship Christ the King.**
One: We come to shout and sing and rejoice.
All: **We come to listen and learn and grow.**
One: We come because God invites us to come.
All: **We come because God comes to us.**

***OPENING HYMN** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” GtG 93

1. **Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.**

2. **Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

3. **Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

Words: Georg Weissel, 1642; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863
Music: TRURO, *Musica Sacra*, ca. 1778
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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we confess to you our sins, trusting in your ever-flowing grace and mercy. We want to decide for ourselves when and where and how you will come. Or we ignore your coming all together, too busy for you or unmoved to care. Forgive us, coming God. Make us expectant of your working in our midst. Make of us an Advent people, eager for your coming, watching for your coming, participating in your coming. And make us alive to your presence in our midst. For we pray in the name of the one who came, who comes, and who will come again: Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Matthew 1 & Luke 2)*

One: The One who comes in the Child of Bethlehem is the One who comes to redeem and restore.
All: **His name is Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sins."**
One: This is indeed "good news of great joy for all the people."
All: **So let us rejoice and be glad, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**
Alleluia!

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.
All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Hope

One: We approach the season of Advent full of anticipation and expectation.
All: **We long for something wonderful to happen. We hope for God's promised salvation.**

One: What is the shape of our hope?

All: **The shape of our hope is the small form of a baby and the promise of new life.**

One: As Isaiah prophesied to King Ahaz, "the Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel, that is, God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

As the angel proclaimed to the shepherds, "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12)

(continued...)

All: So, God gives us hope in the form of a baby. God offers salvation in the birth of a child.

Sing: 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, O Come, Emmanuel” GtG 88 (*Verse 1*)

Words: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite

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Tune: VENI EMMANUEL, Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988

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SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 63:15-64:12
Mark 13:32-37

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Coming Still” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” GtG 82

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.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
2. **Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

(next page...)

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744
Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of our salvation...
All: ...hear our prayers.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

You are present to us, O God, in the bounty around us. We celebrate your gifts by sharing them with others. Make us joyful givers. Make us grateful recipients. And accept our giving that the gift of your Son may be shared with all the world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(With the passing of the bread, please wait until all have been served so that all may partake together, reflecting our unity in Christ.)

Sing: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" GtG 347 (*Verses 1-2*)

**1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.**

(With the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

- 2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.**

Words: from Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” GtG 104

- 1. O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.**
- 2. Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.**
- 3. You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.**

(continued...)

**In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when your renewed creation
your glory shall display.**

Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. Catherine Winkworth and others, 1863, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1614; harm.
William Henry Monk, 1861
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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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