

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: The Candle of Peace

One: *“Come, thou long-expected Jesus ... born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.”*

(“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” GtG#82)

One: Children of God, what are we waiting for?

**All: We wait for peace where conflict rages,
for gentleness where harshness prevails.
We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows,
for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.
We wait...
longing for the Prince of Peace,
who stills our storms and guides our feet.**

One: Today we light two candles,
their light steady and sure against the dark.
Hope burns beside peace,
witnessing to God’s enduring promises.
The glow spreads wider each week,
reminding us that peace is possible,
and God’s kin-dom is drawing near.

**All: We call this candle Hope. *(Light the first candle.)*
We call this candle Peace. *(Light the second candle.)*
Together they shine as signs of God’s faithfulness.**

One: O God of still waters and quiet strength,
we confess how often our lives are restless.
Our hearts race, our hands grasp,
our voices quicken with fear.

(continued...)

Yet you breathe calm into chaos;
you steady our steps on uneven ground.
Grant us your peace, O Christ,
not as the world gives, but as you alone provide.

Hear the song of the angels:
“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors” (Luke 2:14).

**All: We long for your peace to flow like water,
 quenching our thirst.
 Teach us to live as peacemakers,
 agents of your reconciling love.
 Come, Lord Jesus, and make peace our way.**

***OPENING HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” GtG 88 (*Verses 1, 6, & 7*)

**1. 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.**

**6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

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

**7. 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.**

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

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the prophets, we confess
our lack of preparedness and
our tendency to wander away from you and your path.
We do not heed your voice in what we do and say.
We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends
as beloved children whom you have made.
We cling to the known and familiar,
afraid of the transformation your grace will bring.
Yet you are always a step ahead of us,
a voice crying out in the wilderness,
inviting us into bold new ways of being disciples.
In your mercy, forgive us, O God,
for we repent of our ways
and look to your power to heal us and raise us up.
Humble us, O God,
and teach us to do the work of repentance so that,
fully reliant on your grace,
we may know the richness of restored relationship
with you and one another. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Mark 1, John 3, & Matthew 1)*

One: “The right time has come, and the Kingdom of God is near!
Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!”
All: **The Good News is this: “God loved the world so much
that God gave God’s only Son.”**
One: Friends, let us believe the Good News of the Child born in Bethlehem:
his name is “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
All: **So let us rejoice and be glad! For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Alleluia! Amen!**

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 11:1–10
Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19
Matthew 3:1–12

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Peace...and Pieces” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” GtG 96

1. **On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**
2. **Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**
3. **We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**
4. **Stretch forth your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (from *The Confession of 1967*)

**To be reconciled to God
is to be sent into the world as God’s reconciling community.
This community, the church universal,
is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation
and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities
which separate people from God and from each other.**

**God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life:
social and cultural, economic and political,
scientific and technological, individual and corporate.
It includes the natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin.**

(continued...)

**It is the will of God
that the divine purpose for human life shall be fulfilled
under the rule of Christ
and all evil be banished from creation.**

**With an urgency born of this hope,
the church applies itself to present tasks
and strives for a better world.**

**It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth,
nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.**

**In steadfast hope,
the church looks beyond all partial achievement
to the final triumph of God.**

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**One: Come, Lord Jesus, come.
All: Come to us with peace.**

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

**We give you thanks, Holy God, for all good things:
for this universe and for Earth itself,
for creatures and plants, for water and food, for day and night;
for Jesus Christ,
who set himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life;
and for the Holy Spirit,
who moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.
Turn our offerings to your good will,
and turn us always to you in gratitude.
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 (Traditional)

**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.**

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 "In Remembrance of Me" GtG 521

**1. In remembrance of me, eat this bread.
In remembrance of me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of me, pray for the time
when God's own will is done.**

**2. In remembrance of me, heal the sick.
In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
In remembrance of me, open the door
and let your neighbors in,
let them in.**

**Take, eat, and be comforted;
drink and remember, too,
that this is my body and
precious blood shed for you,
shed for you.**

(continued...)

**3. In remembrance of me, search for truth.
In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above,
but in your heart, look for God.**

Do this in remembrance of me.

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

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN “O God of Every Nation” GtG 756**

**1. O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand.
Where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.**

**2. From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation,
eternal God, we pray.**

**3. Lord, strengthen those who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;**

(continued...)

**when hope and courage falter,
your still small voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.**

**4. Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and justice reign
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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

All: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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