

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



Lamppost in Forest (royalty free image)

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

--John 1: 5

First Presbyterian Church

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COMMISSIONED PASTOR: DR. WENDY L. LAMB

MINISTRY OF PASTORAL SUPPORT: REV. DR. STEPHEN W. SMITH

MINISTRY OF VISITATION: LAURIE STAFFORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: CURTISS ALLEN, JR., DIRECTOR OF MUSIC;

WILLIAM ZEITLER, ORGANIST;

AMY GANO, BELLS

PASTOR EMERITUS: REV. JAMES C. HUFFSTUTLER

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

This service is being **livestreamed** and can be viewed on our YouTube channel in real time or as a recording. **Large-print copies of this order of service**, as well as **audio enhancement devices** are available **from the ushers**.

We gather on Sunday for 3 reasons:

- **To seek God**- whom we find in sacred text and sacrament, in music and in song, in prayer, in the beauty of this space, in the stillness where we can hear our hearts. We offer God our thanks and praise, our lament and longing, and our resources. We let go of burdens and receive grace and forgiveness. We see the One our hearts love.
- **To practice Community** – rejoice w/those who rejoice, weep w/those who weep. To break bread with those whom we love and those whom we need to love more fully. We practice things our culture does not emphasize: resting, forgiving, sharing. Jesus asked us to love one another as he loved us, and we cannot do so without practice.
- **To listen for our Call**- often an invitation to go out and be or do or remember. God is speaking all the time: through conscience, nature, friends, and certainly scripture. We gather to listen for that Call and to recommit ourselves to discipleship.

Information on our common life can be found on our website www.fpcsb.net, along with sermons and newsletters. You can participate in our work by supporting us financially with a one-time or sustaining donation.

Children are **welcome** in worship. Younger children may go to the Nursery at any time.

OUR NEXT COMMUNION will be Sunday, December 8th.

Morning Worship†

Lector: Robin Edwards

Candle Lighter: Sarah Fletcher

REFLECTION before the SERVICE

God promises through Isaiah that, "On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned." Aslan made a similar promise to Narnia in the light of a once-broken lamppost, and God promises the light of a burning fire as well, one that will destroy instruments of cruelty and suffering and guide our feet into the way of peace.

--Heidi Haverkamp, *Advent in Narnia*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Seven Antiphons on
"Veni Emmanuel"*

William Zeitler

Allow the music to usher you into sacred space and time.

INTROIT

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI 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 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.

INVITATION to ADVENT

CHORAL REFRAIN 89

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
(Child lights candle.)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

✠ **On those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned**

† The symbols you will see in this order of worship mean:

* Stand if you are able ✠ The congregation will read.

***HYMN 89¹ v. 1**

- ✘ **O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits;
truly my hope is in you.**

The Christ of Hope be with you

- ✘ **and also with you!**

***HYMN 105**

People Look East

BESCANÇON

PRAYER of CONFESSION

If we look at our own lives,

- ✘ **we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness,
our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush,
our missing the mark of Advent.**

Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts.

(Moment for silent reflection and confession)

But we can also trust in you, our God,

- ✘ **who still brings us salvation,
who still supplies us strength,
who hears our songs of gratitude,
who accepts our joyful praise.**

Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation.

Let us shout it in church and in town:

- ✘ **The Lord's great name will still be praised.
Your saving deeds support our lives.
Your greatness still astounds us.
The Holy One of Israel is among us.
Praise you, Lord and sing for joy.**

(We remain seated for the kyrie, an ancient song of the church. We will sing it through in Greek first and then in English.)

¹ Text & Music: Marty Haugen. ©2982, 2005 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

KYRIE²

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Note: Lower voices may hum.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

ASSURANCE of FORGIVENESS

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

✘ **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are being made whole. Amen.**

(We stand and sing Gloria)

*GLORIA 113³

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TIME with the CHILDREN

[Children are always welcome in worship.]

ANTHEM

Prepare Thyself, Zion⁴

J. S. Bach

Prepare thyself, Zion, with tender affection, The purest, the fairest, this day to receive.

A READING

BELL ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:1-7

Old Testament, pg. 638

SCRIPTURE John 1:1-5

New Testament, pg. 91

This is the word of faith that we proclaim

✘ **Thanks be to God.**

² Traditional Liturgical text. Music: Dinah Reindorf, 1987. ©1987 Dinah Reindorf. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

³ Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937 ©1996 H. W. Gray Company. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254

⁴ Text: Rev. J. Troutbeck, DD. Music: J.S. Bach; arr. Douglas E. Wagner. ©1977 Shawnee Press, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission of OneLicense #A706254.

SERMON

A Great Light

Pastor Wendy Lamb

HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVA 42

THE OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

(We offer our tithes and gifts to be part of God's purposes in the world, and we invite you to take part. You may place your offering in the basket in front or give it to the usher. You may always send gifts by mail or online.)

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDETH

✘ Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost, Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE, 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.

***HYMN 144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

***MOMENT for REFLECTION**

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people 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.

***POSTLUDE**

Improvisation

Resources for this Series:

"Advent in Narnia," Cindy de Jong, Reformed Worship 129

Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season, Heidi Haverkamp

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis

GREETERS: Tom & Donna Garza

USHERS: Brad Smith, *Lead Usher*

Jim Siegmund, Mark Adelson, *Security Ushers*

SOUND ENGINEERS: Dan Direen, Brent Nord

VIDEO ENGINEER: James Welte

CAMERA OPERATORS: Kevin Lamb, Lynn Usher

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK

Beverly Snell, Judy Steppins, Ann Aguilera

Elders: Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark

Deacons: **Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith**

Pastor Nominating Committee:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher

This Weeks' Celebrations

Dec 1 Elaine Saenz

Dec 5 Bobbie Terrell

Dec 2 Sarah Godby

Curtiss & Rebecca Allen

Dec 3 Cindi Pringle

Dec 7 Zienna Long

Our Annual PW Alternative Christmas Market -- December 8th & 15th, in the Fellowship Hall following worship! Visit our market – we're offering unique gifts for those you love! Invest in our **Internship program**, or support our **Food Ministry**, or send funds to our super successful **LifeSkilz program** at SBHS. All of these gifts keep on giving to those who need support and encouragement. Cards representing most of these gifts will be available for you to share with the recipient of your thoughtful gift(s).

We have been given a small pipe organ, built by Ron Kraft. He and Ruby have kindly donated it to our church and it will be installed in Fellowship Hall, enhancing our summer worship, and perhaps leading to some other joyful activities. The cost of installing it has been greatly discounted, but will still require about \$3.500. **If you would like to donate to this, please contact the church office.**

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color providing education and leadership development while

nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. **We will receive the offering on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22.**

Inland Master Chorale presents *A John Rutter Christmas*, Sunday, December 22nd at 4:00 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel of the University of Redlands. Tickets can be purchased at www.inlandmasterchorale.org

Leonard Scholarship Applications. Leonard Scholarship applications for fall 2025 are available in the church office and on the church website. <https://www.fpcsb.net/leonard> All applications must be in the church office no later than Feb. 28, 2025. Any questions can be emailed to Lynda Savage. Lksavage3@gmail.com

News and announcements are available in your Friday *Keeping in Touch* emails. If you are not receiving these, and you would like to, contact Mimi in the church office.

The Music Box

"O Come O Come Emmanuel" is a modernized version of the so called "O Antiphons", a set of pieces traditionally sung at Vespers (evening service) for the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve. Each highlights a different aspect of the Christ, and all are taken from the Book of Isaiah:

- December 17: O Sapientia (O Wisdom, Isaiah 28:29)
- December 18: O Adonai (O Lord, Isaiah 11:4-5, 33:22)
- December 19: O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse, Isaiah 11:1, 10)
- December 20: O Clavis David (O Key of David — that is, the key to the house of David, Isaiah 22:22)
- December 21: O Oriens (O Dayspring, Isaiah 9:2)
- December 22: O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations, Isaiah 2:4, 9:6)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (O God With Us, Isaiah 7:14)

The first letters of the titles taken backwards form a Latin acrostic of "Ero Cras" which translates to "Tomorrow, I will be there" — the whole point of the antiphon series.

(An 'antiphon' is a piece characterized by 'call and response' — we do 'call and response' every Sunday when we work through a text with the reader reading a phrase and the congregation responding with a phrase.)

The exact origin of the "O Antiphons" is not known. The Christian philosopher Boethius (480–524/5, who also wrote a treatise on music theory that was the foundation of music through the Middle Ages) used language which may be a reference to them, suggesting their presence in the sixth century. By the eighth century, they were in use in the liturgical celebrations in Rome. The usage of the "O Antiphons" was so prevalent in monasteries that the phrases "Keep your O" and "The Great O Antiphons" were common parlance. One may thus conclude that in some fashion the "O Antiphons" have been part of Western liturgical tradition since the very early Church.

The earliest surviving evidence of the hymn's Latin text is in the seventh edition of *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, published in Cologne in 1710. It was also included in the second volume of *Thesaurus Hymnologicus*, a monumental collection by the German hymnologist Hermann Adalbert Daniel, and thence translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851.

The now familiar tune (*Veni Emmanuel*) was first linked with this hymn in 1851, when Thomas Helmore published it in the *Hymnal*

Noted, paired with an early revision of Neale's English translation. The volume listed the tune as being "From a French Missal in the National Library, Lisbon." However, Helmore provided no means to verify his source, leading to long-lasting doubts about its attribution. There was even speculation that Helmore might have composed the melody himself.

The mystery was settled in 1966 by British musicologist Sister Mary Berry (also an Augustinian canoness and noted choral conductor), who discovered a 15th-century manuscript containing the melody in the National Library of France, a manuscript consisting of processional chants for burials.

In my piece I've broken up the 'O Come O Come" melody into seven segments, a nod to the original seven "O Antiphons" verses. Each fragment has its own 'call and response': a simple statement of the hymn tune fragment for the 'call', and then a more elaborate version of the same for the 'response'.

--William Zeitler



The seal of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a symbolic statement of the church's heritage, identity, and mission in contemporary form. Its power depends on both its simplicity and complexity, as well as its traditional and enduring qualities.

The basic symbols in the seal are the cross, Scripture, the dove, and flames.

As a church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), our congregational life is governed by the Ruling Elders of our current Session:

Mary Bolaños, Brooke Dvorak, Pat Morris, Martha Pinckney, Lily Bolaños, Margaret Doane, Jon Horstmann, Phyllis Hough, Sue Alexander, Jeanne Clark, Kathy Showman, Norm Wallis,
and Clerk of Session Amy Smith

and supported by our Board of Deacons:

Rebecca Allen, Dan Direen, Robin Edwards, Rick Rodriguez, Katie Smith, Brad Smith, Dave Thomas, Chris Wright-Thomas, Kristine French, Joyce Lyons, Joanna Nord, Mindy Rueda

In this time of change for our congregation, a Pastor Nominating Committee has been elected by the congregation:

Susan Addington, Mary Bolaños, John-Paul Fletcher,
Brian Gano, Kendra Lamb, Jim Morris,
Shelby Obershaw, Christa Wallis, Neal Williams