



# First Presbyterian Church

## Sunday, November 27, 2022



*Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit – Serving God’s People*

You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



## First Sunday of Advent

### Order of Worship

#### Prayer in Preparation

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

#### Greeting and Welcome

#### Prelude

*Excerpt Menuetto from Sonata Op. 12*

Beethoven

#### Gathering for Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Let us worship God.**

\*Hymn # #93

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

*First candle is lit. (Light one purple candle)*

**All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light  
of Christ.**

**Show us the creative power of hope.**

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ.**

## **Call to Confession**

Leader: Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away,  
our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have  
done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of  
life.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us pray...

**All: All: God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away.  
You are hidden when we need you near.**

**In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you;  
instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!**

**Let your face shine until our tears are dried,  
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.**

**After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end  
so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is  
faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Giving of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

**All: And also with you!**

**\*Response #88**

*O Come Emmanuel*

**Children's Sermon:** Jesus Was Born! (Part 1)

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Reader: Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away,  
but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever.  
May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we remember your ways and gladly do right,  
meeting you wherever and whenever you appear.  
In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

## **Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 2:1-5 (OT, p. 631)

## **Special Music**

*Listen Here, Listen Here*

Jay Althouse

## **New Testament Lesson**

Matthew 1:18-25 (NT p. 1)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Proclamation of the Word**      You're What?

**\*Affirmation of Faith** Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

Leader: Let us confess our faith together...

**All: 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.**

**\*Hymn:** #97

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

## **Invitation to the Offering**

Leader: God has enriched us in every way— in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received. God holds the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains, the sea and the dry land. Let us offer our gifts to God, our Maker.

## **Offertory:**

*Joy to the World*

arr. James Koerts

## **\*#606 Doxology**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer

**Joys and Concerns** (In the bulletin, on cards, or via Zoom Chat)

Minister: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Minister: For all these people and all who are in need

**All: Please hold your people near, O God!**

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

Minister: Let us pray...

*Silent Prayer*

Minister: Let us pray together...

**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.**

**\*Hymn:** #143

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

v. 1, 4

## Announcements

## Blessing

## Postlude

*Excerpt Adagio from Sonata Op. 22*

Beethoven

## Moment for Reflection:



## **Worship Assistants**

Pam Holt- Greeter  
Rosey Gibbs- Worship Assistant  
Chanmi Jeong- Accompanist  
Elwood Prest- AV Tech

Wendi Zea- Head Usher  
Allan Bennett- Scripture Reader  
Carlyn Zimmermann- Special Music  
Lisa Hollabaugh- Zoom Greeter

### **NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Fellowship  
11:00 am Faith Dialogues in Sanctuary and via Zoom

### **NOVEMBER 30, 2022**

3:30 pm Bible Study via Zoom

### **DECEMBER 4, 2022**

9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Fellowship  
11:00 am Faith Dialogues in Sanctuary and via Zoom

**Pastor Kerry's Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday 10:00 am-2:00 pm**

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit—please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please fill out **Joys and Concerns** cards at the back of the sanctuary prior to the beginning of worship. The cards are on the table as you enter, and there is a basket in which you can place the completed cards. If you are participating via Zoom, use the Chat feature to let the Zoom Greeter know what your Joys and Concerns are. Please complete these as early in the service as possible.

**Faith Dialogues** resumes today as begin our Advent discussion of the book "**Go Tell.**" Copies of the book are available in the work room for those who are interested.

## Joys and Concerns

### Remember to Pray for:

- Those in the destructive path of natural disasters
- For all affected by the mass shootings and hate crimes
- Ukraine Situation
- Transgender community under attack legislatively
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Covid19 Pandemic patients and the ongoing vaccination efforts
- Social unrest and political polarization
- Those who are homeless, hungry, and in harm's way
- For those in shelters on the southern border
- For those who continue to be marginalized and underrepresented
- Service men and women

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **SIH Health Ministry**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Stewardship**

### Household Prayer: Morning

Lord God, you have woken me from sleep, the night is gone, the day is here.  
Enable me to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and help me to live honorably this day,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen

### Household Prayer: Evening

God, my Savior, you are even nearer now than when I first learned to trust in you,  
Help me to lay aside the burdens of the day and rest in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
my strength and my salvation. Amen.

*#93. Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

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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.

*#88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

*#97 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

1 Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

2 Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3 Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*#606 Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow (Doxology)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*#143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory v. 1, 4*

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1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

4 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!