

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone, we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised one—the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Veni Emmanuel”

arr. Gregg Sewell

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “God’s Light”

Jacquie D’Angelo, 2024

Always and forever
God’s Love is bestowed
Timeless and bountiful
God’s Realm overflowed
May we be inspired
Strive to be our best
Witness God’s holy Grace
Lovingly expressed

Miracles abound here
Each and ev’ry day
When our hearts are open
God shows us the way
Live life in gratitude
And pray for true Sight
Always and forever
May we live in God’s Light

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Johnson Family

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

(lighting of the candle)

People: Christ is the reflection of God’s glory, the very imprint of God’s own being.

Reader 2: Night and day we pray that God will strengthen us in holiness and love.

People: Thanks be to God for this good news of great joy!

***Hymn**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

#128

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

Holy God, we confess that we are busy with many preparations. We are busy with parties, with feasts, with giving. We are busy cleaning house and wrapping presents. We are busy with the stuff of the holiday. And we confess that our busyness may be misplaced, that we spend more time preparing for things than preparing for you. Draw us back to the center, which is you. Remind us that our hearts and souls have work to do, too. Enable us to let go of that which does not matter, and to see what does matter. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: May the Lord guide our way, strengthen us in all holiness, and make us abound in love for one another and for all.

***Response Hymn** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (v. 5)

#99



Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant supports those in distress, re -



mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Choir Anthem "The Advent of Our God" arr. Richard Shephard, 2019

The Advent of our God, shall be our theme for prayer,
Come let us meet him on the road, and place for him prepare.

The everlasting Son, incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on, to set his servants free.
O Zion's daughter rise, to meet your heavenly King,
Nor let the faithless heart despise, the peace he comes to bring.
All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one, through all eternity.

Second Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Just You Wait!"

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

“Creator of the Stars of Night” (verse 4)

#84

To God the Fa-ther, God the Son, and God the Spir-it, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glo-ry be from age to age e-ter-nal-ly. A - men.

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***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pews to the center aisle and return to the pews from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to serve communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten-free bread can be found on the communion table.)

***Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

***Hymn of Invitation “The Days Are Surely Coming”**

#357

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly ... forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: You are holy ... Great is the mystery of faith:

People: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Leader: Gracious God ... almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** “While We Are Waiting, Come”

#92

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response** “Advent Song”



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the



day for the baby to be born. Jesus is that baby boy, born on Christmas



Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

Pastors: Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd
Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Paul Oswalt

Paul Oswalt is an Elder and member of the Chancel Choir. He also facilitates the Flock of Ages adult Sunday School class. Originally from Centerburg, Ohio, he married into town and joined First Presbyterian Church of London in 1997. He has two daughters ... Leila is pursuing a Master's degree at Case Western Reserve and Kyla is in her second year at Bowling Green. Paul participates in Madison County Arts Council summer productions and organizes the Music Men & Jen barbershop quartet. He works for the Madison County Auditor.