

The Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2022 – 9:00 Morning Worship

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters, awake, awake!

What time is it?

The night is far gone, and the day is near!

What time is it?

Salvation is near!

How should we live?

Let us lay aside the works of war.

Let us put on the armor of peace.

Let us live honorably.

Let us worship God!

SING

“Come Thou Almighty King”

#2

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Come and let us build a new creation because the world feels bleak.

Salvation is nearer to us than it ever has been before but right now –
in this very moment – as the great season of Advent begins
it feels like we might never learn war anymore.

**In the bleakness of this moment,
we yearn for light that shines through all our fears
as a beacon for all people.**

That light comes into the world and is never extinguished.

We need light to hold on to that hope
and so today we begin with one candle for our HOPE.

PRAYER

With this one light, we pray: O God, we place this light in this holy space
as a reminder that we are on this journey together.

Be light along all our paths.

**Lead us to a more just world and help us to stay awake and present
to your love in each ordinary day.**

Amen.

SING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#88 vs 1 and 6

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Almighty God,

you know that we fail to live as you would have us fully live,

and we fail to love as you would have us fully love,

and the result is a world where so many live in various kinds of conflict.

Consumed by the worries of the world,

we struggle to think about anything other than ourselves and our own.

It seems our failings only fuel our bad habits of forgetting about you.

We lay before you, Holy God, our broken promises,

hurtful words, bad intentions, and sinful ways,

that you might somehow love us into wholeness

and help us take small steps towards your greatest peace.

We pray in Christ's name.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the Good News.

Our gracious God gathers us from our warring ways

and grants us the freedom to join God's new vision of a peaceful world.

Friends, we are free from the prison of war, free to construct peace.

I declare to you now that in Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

I invite you to turn to one another and share a sign of peace:

You're invited to unmute yourselves and exchange peace with one another

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 2:1-5

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

...The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION

Chaplain Tim Haworth

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING

"Dona Nobis Pacem"

#752

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

#608

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, may our gifts to you – these ordinary gifts of the work of our lives –
be used for extraordinary things.

We dedicate what we receive to your work for peace, justice, and hope in the world.

May our gifts, no matter how small,

help us take small steps towards your greatest peace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT WINDOW

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING

“Love Has Come”

#110 vs 1 and 3

SENDING

May God give us courage, give us vision, and give us unending peace –
the kind of peace that God knows is possible.

May God guide our journeys that we may bear Jesus' gifts of love and life and hope.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you, from here to the top of Mount Zion.

May God look on every one of us with kindness, and give us sweet, perfect peace.

Amen.

POSTLUDE