The Worship of God

Second Sunday of Advent, December 07, 2025 – 9:00 Morning Worship **Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Johannes Brahms

WELCOME

INVITATIONS

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Imagine with us, a world where God takes shoots and buds and uses them for large purposes.

We imagine a world, where baby cows and baby bears play together in peace and harmony, where lions and lambs live together in safety.

Imagine God's world, where God's Holy Mountain provides refuge, peace, and safety.

We come to worship; we come to the mountain to worship the One who takes the tiniest shoot and uses it to signal the peace of God.

SING "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" #129

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Children of God, what are we waiting for?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 he favors" (Luke 2:14).

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.

SING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#88 vs

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John the baptizer called us to repent as the kin-dom of heaven comes near. Yet, we often decide that we would rather not change our lives to see that realm.

Let us come to God and ask for a spirit of repentance as we confess our sins to God and to one another.

Hear our hearts, God of peace and justice.

We hear your call for repentance, and we often ignore it.

We find it is easier not to change than to reorient our lives to you.

We find it is more convenient to continue our lives than re-examine them.

We would rather glorify being busy than take time to explore the wonders of your Word and your world through play. Turn our hearts.

Open us to the wonder of your peace and cultivate a desire in us to seek it.

Let us know the freedom of your grace.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Blessed is God alone who does wondrous things."
Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and loved. **Amen.**

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 SCRIPTURE Isaiah 11:1-10

SECOND SCRIPTURE Romans 15:4-13

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

REFLECTION "The Peaceable Kin-dom" Reverend Lonna Chang-Ren Lee

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!" #113

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We come walking and running and sometimes even tiptoeing into the possibility of this abundant feast.

We want to believe in its promise and find its wonder revealed again and again in our everyday ordinary.

Come, let us play with bread and with cup and our hearts full of song to be fed again with grace and love.

It is here at this table that we remember all that God has done and all that God is doing right now.

It is here that we give thanks for all that lives and breathes.

We give thanks even for endings and death as newness and wonder comes anew.

We give thanks for all the ways God introduces compassion and connection into our world and for every time we are reminded that God finds a way out of no way.

We give thanks for our Creator and the endless work of redemption and renewal. We give thanks for Jesus and the path of love made possible. We give thanks for the Spirit whose presence guides us and bonds us in deeper communion. We give thanks to you, O God.

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, come and bless what we do here.

May our eating and drinking in the love of God, broaden the way we think, deepen the way we feel, and send us out walking and running or maybe just tiptoeing into the world to share in the work of creation with you, our God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

<u>SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD</u> "Savior of the Nations, Come"

#102

BENEDICTION

Let us go out into God's world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all persons; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SENDING

Go forth as a little child. Go forth seeking to see as God sees, with unending love for every creature.

May it be so!

Alleluia!

Amen.

POSTLUDE "Noël Suisse" Louis-Claude Daquin