The Worship of God
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026 – 9:00 Morning Worship
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP
In God's house, we can be joyful.
We can be grateful.
We can be hopeful.
In God's house, we can be weary.
We can be anxious.
We can be grieving.
In God's house, we can be honest—
inspired or tired,
delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious,
and everything in between.
This is God's house.
You are welcome exactly as you are.
Let us worship our loving God.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING
How does a weary world hope?
By telling stories of hope, by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that will bloom in the spring.
By praying for children as they grow, and picking up trash on the sidewalk.
By insisting that small acts can make a difference.
There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.
With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world.
Amen.

SING "People, Look East" #105

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Gracious God, we are weary.
For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:
forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.
Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:
forgive us for creating so many distractions.
Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:
forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.
Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope, forgive us.
Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Family of faith,
no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"
God's love keeps showing up for us.
So, say this with me:
We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

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 64:1-9

SECOND SCRIPTURE — Luke 1:1-25
…The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION — Reverend Susan Phillips

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

SING — "O God of Every Nation" — #756

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY — "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" — #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Generous Creator, giver of every good gift:
may our offerings keep the life of those gifts circulating.
Accept, we pray, these tokens of our gratitude for all we have received.
May they be of use in extending the work of our community to the world beyond our walls.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD

SING "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" #83

SHARED 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
Family of faith, as you leave this place, you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

POSTLUDE