

## The Worship of God

First Sunday of Advent – December 1, 2024 – 9:00 Morning Worship

**Welcome to First Presbyterian Church via Zoom!**

PRELUDE

“Sleepers, Wake! A Voice is Calling”

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME

### GATHERING AROUND GOD’S WORD

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are people of a promise – God’s promise.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

From ancient times, God has promised to be with us.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Even though we know Emmanuel has come,

in this Season of Advent we experience the waiting all over again.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Together, we wait for God’s reign of righteousness, justice, and peace.

We wait for Emmanuel – God with us.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Can you be homesick for something you’ve never known?

**We are homesick for a world where all are fed,**

**where laughter is contagious, where the doors are wide open.**

We are homesick for a world with more bridges than walls,

where trees grow tall and rivers run clear.

**We are homesick for a world where all people feel at home—**

**in their bodies, in their churches, in their homes.**

We long for that world.

**We hope for that world.**

So today we light the candle of hope,

because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

**We are homesick, but we are on our way.**

**Let us worship God.**

\*SING

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#88 VS 1

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

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

*O Come, O come Emmanuel*

*make true the stories prophets tell – so all those chained by fear find release,  
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel is come to birth where all God’s children dwell.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,

We find ourselves with two options every day—

to stay homesick for the world you had in mind or to allow cynicism to win.

Do we hope against hope or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

**Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt**

**instead of using it to fuel a better world.**

**Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.**

**Gratefully we pray,**

**Amen.**

SING

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

#95

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel,

even when we give up on hope,

God does not give up on us.

We are loved. We are claimed.

We are invited closer to God's home.

So, hear and trust this good news:

**There is room for us in God's house,**

**and nothing can separate us from that love.**

**We are claimed. We are forgiven.**

**We are welcomed home.**

**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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

SECOND SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

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

REFLECTION

Reverend Susan Phillips

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

SING

"People, Look East"

#105

GIVING OUR GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow"

#607

## 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 God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

It is always right and good to praise God,  
who created us and never stops loving us.

Take off your heavy coat of sorrow and grief.

**We come to nourish ourselves in glory.**

Look toward the east and to the west  
to see the wideness of mercy.

**We come to feast on grace.**

O Holy One, Waiting One, Wandering One, who is as close to us  
as breath and distant as the star, you join in this feast.

You prepare this table before us with the abundance  
that rained manna down from heaven  
and fed thousands from just five loaves and two fish.

Feed our hopes and our fears of all the years  
as only your steadfast love can.

Hear the rumbling in our stomachs for justice and peace  
in a world full of uneven ground  
as much as you hear the praise in our song  
for the prophets standing on the fringes and demanding change.

We come to this table craving change  
that will nourish our most inward being  
and cause us to alter the landscape of our lives  
so much that there is more righteous peace and godly glory.

Come, O Holy One, into this cup of gladness  
and this loaf of possibility  
so that we can prepare our hearts and minds  
for all that needs to change  
in this world and in ourselves.

**Come, Waiting One, Wandering One,  
feed us with your glory and grace.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SHARED

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE CHAT

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts & debtors)

**SENDING INTO GOD'S WORLD**  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#83

SING

SENDING

We give thanks to God,  
who blesses us with the joy we find in each other.

**May we see our ever-present God  
in the faces of those we encounter this day.**

Increase and abound in love for one another.  
And may God strengthen your hearts in holiness.

**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Johann Heinrich Buttstedt