

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fantasy on *Veni Emmanuel*

Kenneth Leighton

GREETING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT

Johnson Family

The prophet calls, "The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah."

We wait in hope, preparing to see how beautifully God is at work in and through us!

We light the Candle of Hope as we prepare for God's eternal reign!

Light the First Candle

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

VS. 1 & 2

ADVENT PRAYER

Almighty God, bless us to set all darkness aside, and to put on the armor of light. Your Son Jesus Christ was born in great humility, but we know that in the last days he will come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, and we may rise with him to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Stephanie Dube

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Preparing for Christ's coming requires that we examine our hearts and make room for him there. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, bless us to use the light of this Advent season to search ourselves. Wherever we have failed to do good, let your light shine so we may see our failures clearly, and so that we may move with haste to repent and to seek your forgiveness, O our Lord and our hope for salvation. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Trisagion

David Hurd

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who left the water running? It is Christ, who loves us and washes us clean.
Remember your baptism and be thankful!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GLORIA (TAIZE)

**Glorify to God, glorify to God, glorify in the highest!
Glorify to God, glorify to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 91)

Come, Come, Emmanuel (3x)

COME, COME, EMMANUEL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Savior of all nations, guide us by your word and Spirit that we may hear your truth, heed your call, and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (O.T. p. 738)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 25 (Hymn 420)

Lord, to You My Soul is Lifted

GENEVAN 25

*Luke 21:25-36 (N.T. p. 85)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*HYMN 357

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice before God. Let us come before God with our tithes and our offerings.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Keep Your Lamps

arr. André Thomas

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all: (Hymn 562)

**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.

The prayer continues.

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 & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Gluten free elements are available on the small plate near the baptismal font. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We who are fed, give you all our thanks, O Lord. We who are nourished and refreshed here, find our spirits lifted. We who understand your sacrifice, are now prepared to give ourselves to you. Thank you for blessing us, O Lord! Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on Helmsley

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Patti Price*

Communion Servers: *Marilyn Van Winkle & Creda Heffelfinger*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsha Nash*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *Ashley, Claudia, & Sylvie Johnson*

You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawa



The Life of the Church

Our annual **Advent Workshop** will be held today from 4:00-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us for a simple meal and time of fellowship.

The SpiritLifters Annual Potluck Dinner will be at Patti Price's house on Monday, December 2nd at 5:00 PM. Let Jerry Price know if you are attending.

2025 Giving Envelopes are located on the table in the hallway outside of the library. The boxes are no longer numbered. Please reach out to Debbie Hutchinson if you have any questions.

Christmas Pageant rehearsals for the children and youth will be held during the Sunday School hour on Sundays in December.

2025 Pledge Update: 56 pledges received for a total of \$264,560 . Please be sure to turn in your pledge card so we can make our goal of \$450,000.

Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year (through Oct.)	Month of Nov. (to date)	Week Ending Nov. 30
Income: \$414,694.89*	Income: \$ 28,293.82	Income: \$ 5,355.00
<u>Expense: \$444,621.11</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 40,821.76</u>	<u>Expense: \$13,153.08</u>
Balance: -\$ 29,926.22	Balance: -\$ 12,527.94	Balance: \$ 7,798.08

*This includes \$20,000.00 from Permanent Funds

Want to help? If you are writing or renewing your will, please remember the church.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SESSION

Debbie McCoy, Clerk
Pat Corkran
Tom Furlong
Creda Heffelfinger
Debbie Hutchinson
Don Preuss
Jerry Price
Patti Price
CeCe Robinson
Mary Lou Taylor

DEACONS

Susan Furlong
Judy Hughes
Linda Kabalen
Janice Odom
Beverly Swanson
Karen Taylor
Patti Burns Taylor

STAFF

Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington
Interim Pastor

Stephanie Dube
Director of Children's &
Youth Ministries

Patrick Ritsch
Music Director & Organist

Sasha O'Bryan
Office Manager &
Pastoral Assistant

Angie Hall
Custodian

Debbie Hutchinson
Bookkeeper