

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *E Minor*

GREETING

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF HOPE & PEACE Leazenby Family

Isaiah says that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." (Isaiah 12:3)

"Sing daughter Zion; shout aloud! Be glad and rejoice. The Lord has taken away your punishment and turned back your enemy!" (Zephaniah 3:14)

We choose to live in the joyful presence of God.

We do not deny the struggle, but we rejoice that God's salvation fills us.

We meet our world with the fullness of God's hope, peace, and joy.

We light three candles, and rejoice!

Light the Candles

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
vs. 5, 6, & 7

VENI EMMANUEL

ADVENT PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us for joy. Fill our hearts as we prepare for your coming and your rule. In that day, hope will wash away our fears, peace will find us ready, and rejoicing will be heard in highest heavens, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Spirit of God, prepare us for the miracle of Christ's coming, hear us as we confess our sins, and make us truly expectant of your gracious forgiveness. Let us turn to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, bless us to absorb the message of joy; joy that will crowd out our stubborn resistance, our insolence and misbehavior. Prepare us for your coming. We seek new beginnings in a new age, 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

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Remember your baptism and be thankful!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GLORIA (TAIZE)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

*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

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Rev. Matthew Covington

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord of Life, Savior, and giver of all peace: Bless us to listen for a word from you now. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (O.T. p. 877) & Isaiah 12:2-6 (O.T. p. 641)

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

*Canticle (Hymn 71)

First Song of Isaiah (Refrain only)

FIRST SONG

*Philippians 4:4-7 (N.T. p. 198)

The Good News of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Robert Lau

*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, (x2)

heaven and earth are full (x2)

of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. (x2)

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. (x2)

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

Almighty and merciful God, from whom all good things come, we praise you for your mercies. By this holy meal, we are strengthened, sustained, and made whole. As we go out, help us to love you, and to be thankful for all your gifts;

and let us show our thanks by serving you and delighting in your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 363

Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

DARWALL'S 148TH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Improvisation on *Darwall's 148th*

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Linda Morris*

Communion Servers: *Patti Price & Debbie McCoy*

Kids' Kirk: *Kim Lashbrook*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *Bryan & Anne Leazenby*

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

Year End Giving: The end of the year is quickly approaching. All 2024 donations need to be sent to the office no later than Sunday, January 12th.

The adult Sunday school is once again collecting donations for a family at the Hager preschool. This is a long standing tradition which brings joy to the families and to us. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church and write Hager in the memo.

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. There will be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 21st, at 10 AM in the sanctuary.

2025 Pledge Update: 61 pledges received for a total of \$294,960. 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 Nov.)	Month of Dec. (to date)	Week Ending Dec. 14
Income: \$443,279.18*	Income: \$ 26,667.00	Income: \$ 15,165.00
<u>Expense: \$493,830.76</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 22,242.49</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 12,719.53</u>
Balance: -\$ 50,551.58	Balance: \$ 4,424.51	Balance: \$ 2,445.47

*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