



John the Baptist in the Wilderness, Geertgen tot Sint Jans, c. 1490

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The Second Sunday
of Advent
Sunday, December 5, 2021
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTROIT

Poor, Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Earlene Rentz

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Hicks Family

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

In Christ there is life and light for all people.

Jn. 1

Now lift up your heads and rejoice: your redeemer is drawing near.

Lk. 21

Prepare the way of the Holy One! All flesh will see the salvation of God.

Lk. 3

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth!

Lk. 2

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Kyrie

Joseph Gabriel

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

*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

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (88)

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:1-4 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Philippians 1:3-11 The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 3:1-18 The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“Wildman in the Wilderness!”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of Belbar

We believe that God wants to bring about true justice and lasting peace on earth; we believe that God is, in a special sense, the God of the suffering, the poor, and the downtrodden. We praise God who gives justice to the oppressed and bread to the hungry; who sets captives free and makes the blind to see; who protects strangers, orphans, and widows and obstructs the plans of the wicked. We believe that the Church belongs to God and that it should stand where God stands: against injustice and with those who are wronged. We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice in ourselves and amongst us; and to struggle against all forms of injustice and every teaching that allows injustices to flourish. We are called to confess and to do all this in obedience to Jesus Christ, our only Lord, even if authorities or laws oppose this, even if punishment and suffering may be the consequence. Jesus is Lord! We will follow him! To the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever and ever.

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* arr. Kirby Shaw

*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.*

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:

*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. Hosanna in the highest!*

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave Verum Corpus

W.A. Mozart

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 109

Blest Be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)

MERLE'S TUNE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Susan Godthaab*

Communion Servers: *Debbie McCoy & Marilyn Van Winkle*



We are glad to welcome this morning the Owensboro High School Chorale,
under the direction of our own Jenifer Wiggins.

The Life of the Church

The Advent Workshop will be held tonight from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Following soup and sandwiches, there will be a variety of activities for all ages to help us observe the Advent season.

A Mission Project at the Advent Workshop will be packing treat boxes that will be distributed with our Christmas Baskets this year. We need donations of candy and snack foods. There is a display near the Clinton Place door with more information.

The Christmas Pageant will be held during worship on Sunday, December 19. All children and youth are invited to participate. Talk to Stephanie Dube if you are interested!

Rehearsal Schedule:

Today, December 5	9:30-10:15 in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 11	9:30-10:30 in the Sanctuary
Sunday, December 12	9:30-10:15 in Fellowship Hall
Saturday, December 18	10:30-12:00 in the Sanctuary

The Longest Night Service will be held Tuesday, December 21 at 6:00pm. This service is a time to acknowledge the grief, pain, and struggles many of us bear that can seem worse this time of year. This time of prayer, song, candlelighting, and communion, is an opportunity to share the gift of hope we find in community with one another.

2021 Financial Contributions must be received in the church office by 10:00am on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 (as long as it is dated in 2021) to be applied toward your 2021 Giving Statement. Thank you for your generosity!

Poinsettias will be ordered again this year through the Kentucky Hemophilia Foundation. There will be a choice of red or white and they will cost \$11 each. Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate along with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with Poinsettia in the memo. You may also call the church office, 270-684-1467, or email, office@fpcobky.com, to place your order. Order deadline is Monday, December 13th.

In honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Red _____ White _____ Quantity _____



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.



1328 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, Kentucky
270.684.1467
fpcobky.com

Rev. Matt Curry, Pastor
Jeff Moles, Director of Christian Education & Mission
Dennis Jewett, Director of Music
Patrick Ritsch, Organist
Stephanie Dube, Director of Youth Ministries & Weekday School
Sasha O'Bryan, Office Manager & Pastoral Assistant
Staci Estes Horn, Financial Secretary
Dylan Schroader, Custodian
Kate Bowley, Nursery Care Provider