

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024
10:30 A.M.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY Improvisation on *Veni Emmanuel*

GREETING

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

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

The prophet calls us to watch.

We will watch for the messenger God sends.

“For that one is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the faithful like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness” (Malachi 3:2b-3).

We will listen to those who call us to righteousness, and we will look for God's grace, praying to be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light the candles of hope and peace as we prepare for God's eternal reign!

Light the Two Candles

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
vs. 3 & 4

VENI EMMANUEL

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 quietly and humbly, but John said all people will see salvation in him. We pray that his glory will come to us this Advent. *Amen.*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We prepare for the miracle of Christ's coming when we learn to confess our sins and to expect God's gracious forgiveness. Let us turn to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, bless us to absorb the message of new beginnings in a new age. The things about ourselves that are not glorious, not good, and not generous are what we offer for your healing now. 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

John appeared by the Jordan River, baptizing for the forgiveness of sins. 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

Diane Bowers

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

Malachi 3:1-4 (O.T. p. 889)

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

*Canticle (Hymn 109)

Song of Zechariah

MERLE'S TUNE

*Luke 3:1-6 (N.T. p. 60)

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

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

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

E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

*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, feel secure now. We who are nourished and refreshed, are ready to serve you. Here, we find our spirits lifted. We who accept good news will go now and spread it. Thank you for blessing us, O Lord! Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANÇON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major

J.S. Bach

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Dr. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Diane Bowers*

Communion Servers: *Patti Price & Pat Corkran*

Kids' Kirk: *Marna Loucks*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *John & Marna Loucks*

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.

2025 Pledge Update: 59 pledges received for a total of \$280,560 . 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 Nov.)	Month of Nov. (Final)	Week Ending Dec. 7
Income: \$443,279.18*	Income: \$ 28,584.29	Income: \$ 11,502.00
<u>Expense: \$493,830.76</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 49,209.65</u>	<u>Expense: \$ 9,522.96</u>
Balance: -\$ 50,551.58	Balance: -\$ 20,625.36	Balance: \$ 1,979.04

*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.

1328 Griffith Avenue | Owensboro, Kentucky | 270.684.1467



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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