

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
LEBANON

First Sunday
in Advent



December 1, 2024

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

David Paxton

CHIMING THE HOUR

WHO WE ARE

Leader: We are called Christians but what does that mean?

People: We are a welcoming community of disciples of Jesus Christ continually demonstrating God's reign.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karen Hunter-Lowery

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Robin and Jack Emmert

Leader: ...Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Let us pray together.

People: God, in whom we hope, we wait with eager anticipation for your return. Grant us the grace to remain vigilant, ever watchful for the signs of your imminent arrival. May our hearts be open to your word, our minds attuned to your gentle whispers. As we yearn for your presence, may we be filled with peace knowing that your timing is perfect and your love unwavering. Amen.

Sing: *Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*HYMN NO. 551 *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of the heavens in whose presence even the mountains themselves tremble, we are your people and yet we feel so distant from you.

Our hearts ache because of the great chasm between us.

We confess that we have hidden ourselves from you.

We don't call on your holy name as we should.

Reclaim us, we pray. Forgive our iniquities, and, by your hand, mold us into righteous people again so that we might delight in your blessed kingdom. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news. Jesus came to save sinners.
May we be dead to sin and alive to God.
People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI

Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.

ANTHEM

Brightest and Best

Robert J. Hughes

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lie his head with the beasts of the stall:
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch, and Lord over all.
Vainly we offer each treasured possession,
Vainly with gifts would his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the pray'rs of the poor.
Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

SERMON

God in Your Midst: Rev. Sherard Edington
Reclaim

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 554 *Let All Things Now Living*

ASH GROVE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death— even death on
a cross.
Therefore, God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* Albin C. Whitworth

*DOXOLOGY

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

*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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. (repeat)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN NO. 1 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTT GART

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn No. 44

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, Still the dear Christ enters in.*

*POSTLUDE

Noel

George Blake

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us this morning. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to become a member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information, please speak to the pastor at the close of the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner

December 4, 6:00 p.m.

Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert

To make a reservation, please call the church office at
(615) 444-1360 by Tuesday.

ADVENT BOOKLETS – Copies of *Joy to the World: Daily Readings for Advent* are available for each family to pick up in the sanctuary and outside the chapel.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

All are welcome to attend our service of Lessons & Carols. Following the service, everyone is invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for punch and cookies.

Cookie donations are always appreciated.

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP (5th -12th grade) will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Today		Wednesday	
8:45 a.m.	Worship	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
9:45 a.m.	Church School	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
11:00 a.m.	Worship	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
12:15 p.m.	Deacons Meeting	Thursday	
Monday		9:00 a.m.	Preschool
6:00 p.m.	New Day Group	6:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts
Tuesday		Friday	
9:00 a.m.	Preschool	10:00 a.m.	Wreath Workshop

SESSION

Class of 2024
Max Carter
Nancy Gebhardt
Mickey Stueck
Allen Vance

Class of 2025
W.P. Bone
Jack Emmert
Frank Reeves

Class of 2026
Carol Hill
Margaret Ann Trail

DIACONATE

Class of 2024
Jonathan Bouton
Carol Turner
Van Turner
Sandra Weatherford

Class of 2025
Rachel Low
Jim Stueck

Class of 2026
Melissa Cassetty
Karen Hunter-Lowery
Jim Murff

CHURCH COMMITTEES

Clerk of Session – Barbara Howell
Treasurer – Jim Stueck
Budget & Finance – Jim Stueck
Buildings and Grounds – Allen Vance
Christian Education – Nancy Gebhardt
Congregational Care –
Outreach – Margaret Ann Trail
Personnel – Jack Emmert
Worship – Mickey Stueck

STAFF

Ministers – All Members of the Congregation
Pastor – Sherard Edington
Organist/Director of Music – Darryl Nettles
Office Administrator – Kristy Vincent
NCC Worship Leader – Natalie Loader
Preschool Director – Angela Hankins
Custodians – Stratus Cleaning Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children
Elementary Class and
Middle - High School Class

Adult
Crossroads Class
Faith Builders Class

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