



First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 1, 2024



Seeking the Faith – Sharing the Spirit – Serving God’s People

You are invited to join us on our journey of faith! We seek to serve God, to minister to our community, and to love one another. Help us in our quest to become an ever more inclusive church that welcomes all people from all backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Come and experience the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.



Order of Worship for The First Sunday of Advent

Prayer in Preparation

Come, O God, to bring us light. Into our days of worry, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts and spill out generous compassion for all your suffering children. Meet us today so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prelude

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Heather Sorenson

Gathering for Worship

Leader: Awake, people of God and stay alert for Christ’s coming.
Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.

All: Make your ways known to us, O God.

Show us once more your awesome presence.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

First Reader: Today we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: with the prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

Second Reader: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

All: Alleluia!

*Hymn #100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

*Call to Confession:

Leader: As a new year begins in the church, we seek to leave behind our past unfaithfulness. We remember our doubts, the empty times when prayer is forgotten, and our focus is narrowed to petty concerns. God is waiting to hear from us.

**Please stand as you are able*

***Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us pray...

All: Awesome God, we confess the sin of our separation from you.

We have not called upon you, and we have not listened for your call to us.

O God, we long for that loving community in which your reign is acknowledged, and your purposes are served. Move us to that place, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Leader: God's grace has come to us in Jesus Christ.

God restores us to a right relationship with the eternal.

God is faithful and will strengthen us to face all circumstances.

Praise God, the source of all things!

All: Thanks be to God.

***Giving of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

***Response #582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Purple is for Advent

Prayer for Illumination

Reader: Child of humankind, born of God,

reveal to us once more the power and glory which claims us all.

Let your Word make its impact within and among us.

Come to reign among us and rule every heart. **Amen.**



New Testament Lesson

I Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NT p. 204)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Anthem

Advent Grace

Lloyd Larson

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (OT p. 708)

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. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety.

And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of the Word

Glory Days

***Affirmation of Faith**

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

***Hymn #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

An Advent Skit: An Angel

Invitation to the Offering

Leader: We have been enriched and strengthened in so many ways by the gifts of God. Our offerings enable our church's witness in this community and a caring outreach around the globe. Let us give as we have been blessed.

Offertory

We Three Kings

arr. Heather Sorenson

***#606 Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Leader: Gracious God, we give our best to you with gratitude and faith. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all of our days to serving you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer and Congregational Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Minister: We give thanks to God for these blessings.

All: Thanks be to God!

Minister: For all these people and all who are in need...

All: Please hold your people near, O God!

Minister: God inspires us to pray, hears our prayers, and answers our prayers.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Minister: Let us pray... *Silent Prayer*

Minister: Let us pray together...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn #83**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Announcements

Blessing

Minister: May the hills lie low. May the hills lie low, may the sloughs fill up, in thy way.

May all evil sleep. May all good awake, in thy way. Amen.

Postlude

Sunset in Rio

Mike Springer

A Moment for Reflection:



"They say they are three kings."

Worship Assistants

Sarah Merideth- Greeter
Phyllis Beck- Worship Assistant
Jiyeon Lee- Accompanist
Elwood Prest- AV Tech

Rob Jensen- Head Usher
Deborah Burris- Scripture Reader
Lily Vucinic- Zoom Greeter
Anthem- Choir

DECEMBER 1, 2024

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.
Congregational Meeting
Christmas Around the World and Fellowship Potluck

DECEMBER 4, 2024

10:00 am Bible Study with Bill and J. P.
3:30 pm Bible Study with Pastor Kerry via Zoom
6:30 pm Bible Study with Judy Beyler

DECEMBER 8, 2024

10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.
Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall (Hosts: Pat and Kathy Manfredi)

Pastor Kerry's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

If you would like a visit—or if you know someone who needs a visit— please let Pastor Kerry or one of the Deacons know.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School meets downstairs in rooms 041 and 043. Parents can pick up their children after the service by using the stairway near Fellowship Hall. Enter the double wooden doors by the water fountains, go down the stairs and turn right to go through another set of doors. The classrooms will be on your right.

A congregational meeting will be held immediately following the worship service today. The purpose of the meeting is to hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee to establish a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Rev. Kerry Bean Moderator
Rob Jensen, Clerk of Session

Following worship and the Congregational Meeting, join us in Fellowship Hall for **Christmas Around the World** and a **potluck dinner**.

Presbyterian Men will meet in Fellowship Hall at noon Thursday, December 12, 2024, for pizza, fellowship, and more "Favorite Travel" reports. For more information, contact Harry, Rick, or Bill.

December 15 is the annual **Deacons' Cookie Sunday**. Church members and friends are encouraged to bring cookies (including sugar-free options) to church that morning to enjoy during Fellowship. Cookie plates will be prepared to deliver to church members and friends who are unable to attend worship regularly. Contact Pam Holt for more details.

Please, as you are able, continue to contribute financially to the life and ministry of the church through Sunday offerings, direct deposit, by sending checks in the mail, online at <http://www.firstpresdale.org> or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Joys and Concerns

Remember to Pray for:

- Those affected by natural disasters, threats of terrorism, mass shootings, and hate crimes
- Our National, State, Regional, and Community Leaders
- Areas of the world at war, peace in the Middle East
- Our Democracy in the face of social unrest and political polarization
- Transgender community and others under attack legislatively
- Those who are homeless, hungry, marginalized, underrepresented and in harm's way
- Military Service Members

Each week we pray for one of the Carbondale Interfaith Council faith communities.

This week, please pray for: **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

The Mission/Ministry we are praying for this month: **Worship**

Household Prayer: Morning

Thank you, God, for the gift of life today. I give thanks that your face shines upon me- for you are my salvation. Lead me like a shepherd through this day.

Strengthen me for whatever lies ahead. Grant me the spiritual gifts of peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness, for I want to show your love to others. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, by your grace prepare me, whether awake or asleep, to greet you: in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn.

All times are in your hands, and I, too, am in your hands, faithful God.

In Jesus' name I rest and pray. Amen.

#100 *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Canticle of the Turning)*
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My soul cries out with a joyful shout That the God of my heart is great
And my spirit sings of the Wondrous things That you bring to the ones who wait
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight And my weakness you did not spurn
So from east to west shall my name be blest Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring Let the fires of your justice burn
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near And the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you Work great things in me
And your mercy will last from the Depths Of the past to the end of the age to be
Your very name puts the proud to shame And to those who would for you yearn
You will show your might Put the strong to flight For the world is about to turn. Refrain

From the halls of power to the fortress tower Not a stone will be left on stone
Let the king beware for your Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne
The hungry poor shall weep no more For the food they can never ears
There are tables spread, ev'ry Mouth be fed For the world is about to turn. Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age We remember Who holds us fast
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that out forebears Heard is the promise which holds us bound
'Til the spear and rod can be Crushed by God Who is turning the world around. Refrain

I Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NT p. 204)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (OT p. 738)

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. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety.
And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

#582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* (sing twice)
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Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

#113

Angels We Have Heard on High

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1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

#606

Praise God from Who All Blessings Flow (Doxology)

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.

#83

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.