



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God  
November 27, 2022

**The First Sunday in Advent**  
**JESUS IS OUR HOPE**

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

### **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Hymn 309)

Peeters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia the Christ Child comes!

**We wait to meet the babe in Bethlehem!**

Let us throw off our distractions and allow the chaos to settle.

**We watch for the signs and listen to the messengers.**

Let us be awed in anticipation for Christ, the Messiah, comes.

**Alleluia the Christ Child comes!**

\*HYMN 8 (V.1-3)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

We come together in the midst of a busy season to pause and share the blessings and lessons this season brings to us. Each week of Advent we light this Advent Wreath. With its light we watch as the light of God glows ever brighter. As these lights grow brighter, we wait in growing expectation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ.

### WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of hope, we confess that we often prefer accepting half-truths and pleasing ideas, rather than your challenging word. We praise our own cleverness rather than your wisdom. We have exploited others for our benefit and used the earth without a thought for its wellbeing. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed. Trust in the hope that you are forgiven and that, with God, new things are possible.

#### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 61:1-2a

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
**the Lord has anointed me;**  
God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
**to bind up the broken-hearted;**  
God has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;  
**to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:17-18

#### SERMON

Jesus: The Promise of Hope

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

#### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us respond to the goodness of God with our tithes and offerings!

*Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.*

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. Amen.**

#### \*SUNG RESPONSE

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man I would do my part  
Yet what I can, I give Him, give my heart.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN 38 (V.1-4)

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying (Hymn 17)

Walther

~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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*Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.*

**Matthew 1:17-18**

Thus, there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to **the Messiah**. This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.