



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

December 4, 2022

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**JESUS IS OUR PEACE**

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

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

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

A Christmas Pastorale (Sussex Carol)

Callahan  
Susan Charlton, flute

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 Savior, comes.

**Alleluia, the Christ Child comes!**

\*HYMN 3 (V.1-3)

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Comfort, comfort you my people,  
Tell of peace, thus says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Bowed beneath oppression's load.

Speak you to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling  
In the desert far and near,  
Bidding us to make repentance  
Since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
And the hills bow down in greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked,  
Make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God's word is never broken.

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Jim & Shirley Van Norman

Each week of Advent we light a candle on this Advent wreath. As these lights grow brighter, we wait in growing expectation to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Today we light the candle of peace. It's flame reminds us of the peace that Jesus brings into this world. Jesus said, "I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid."

We thank you Jesus that you offer your peace to each and every life. We thank you for the Peace you have brought to us. Trusting in your powerful name, we pray for people and places who don't know peace. Amen.

#### **WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgiving God, in this season of Advent, we welcome the coming of your light in a world filled with shadow. We confess to you the ways in which we have added to that darkness rather than obey your call to live as children of the light. We ask your forgiveness:**  
**For times when we worship violence and belittle peace;**  
**For times when we fight amongst ourselves;**  
**For times when we forget that we are children of God;**  
**For times when we do not stand up for the helpless among us.**  
**By your tender mercy, may the dawn from on high break upon us, and give light to those of us that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

By the mercy and grace of our good God, may we live in peace with one another, for we have been forgiven. Amen!

\*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 52:7-8

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news:  
**Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times,**  
announcing salvation, and telling Zion, "God reigns!"  
**The watchmen shout and sing with joy,**  
for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:19-21

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King.  
Soon and very soon,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.

No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King.  
No more crying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.  
Hallelujah.

No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King.  
No more dying there,  
We are going to see the King,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,  
We are going to see the King.

## 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.**

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

If you are yearning for someone to trust, come to the table. If you are longing for a sense of peace, come to the table. If you are hungry for joy in your heart, come to the table. If you are thirsty for love, life-changing love, come to the table. Come and meet the Lord your God, the eternal Christ, who welcomes you as his guest. Come to the table of grace.

### THE PRAYER OF 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.**

## PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, who formed the mountains and filled the seas, who set the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. You have been faithful to your ancient promises to your people, whom you guided out of slavery and into freedom through fire and cloud and law. When your people turned away from your paths, you gave your prophets courage to speak words of righteousness and justice. You comforted your people in their time of suffering and oppression, promising that you are Immanuel, God-with-us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, 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.**

In time you visited your people with a new word, a living word, a word made flesh to live among us. We remember the life of that Christ-child: born in a manger amidst the poor and the outcast; driven from his homeland by cruel and frightened leaders; returning to grow into a teacher, a healer, and a friend. Jesus ate with sinners and brought sight to the blind, reclaiming a lost and scattered people in your name. Condemned to death by those who he had come to save, Jesus rose again to prove that not fear, not sin, not even death can halt God's plan of love.

Remembering how you sent the light of the world into our darkness, we take from your creation these gifts of bread and cup and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising as we await with hopeful hearts the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer all that we are to you as a holy sacrifice, to be your servants, your light to shine for all the world. Great is the mystery of faith:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Teach us to sow hope where there is despair; peace where there is violence; joy where there is mourning; and love where there is hatred. We name in our hearts the places and people who need your presence.

### *Silent Prayer*

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forevermore. Amen.

Let us now join together in the words that Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Truly Jesus showed God's love to all, for while there was no room at the inn when he was born, he makes sure that there is room for all at his table, even for the one who would betray him. For on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Take, eat and drink, these are the gifts of God for the people of God!

## COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*The bread and juice are distributed together and can be enjoyed immediately.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we have met you at this table. Nourished by your holy food, send us out as one people, full of vision and courage, to prepare the way for your kingdom. Filled with your grace, show us how to live so that all may know your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love. We pray in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Messiah, Prince of Peace, Immanuel. Amen.

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*HYMN 5 (V.1-4)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the winged seraph;  
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come (Hymn 14)

Vetter

~\*~\*~

Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Sarah Moki, Liturgist

Susan & Art Charlton, Communion Servers

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 1:19-21**

Because Joseph, Mary's husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose Mary to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."