

November 30, 2025

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

1st Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

(We invite you to quiet yourself in preparation for the worship of God when you hear the prelude music.)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Hayes

Call to Worship

Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

People: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

All: May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

— Psalm 33:20-22

*Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

No. 196

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Heavenly Father, we confess that we so often fix our eyes on the troubles of this world rather than in your eternal hope. As a result, we doubt you and your promises. Forgive us, Lord, for focusing only on what we can see. Empower us instead to trust you, walk by faith, and rest confidently in your grace daily. We pray this in the merciful name of Jesus. Amen.

(silent personal confession)

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News! Jesus Christ is our hope. Through His sacrifice on the Cross our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God for His amazing grace!

*Gloria Patri

No. 735

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jim Johnson & Ellen Polk

*Hymn of Preparation

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

See Insert

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

*one universal visible church

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.

Anthem

“Be Not Afraid”

by Craig Courtney

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory

“Come Now, Savior of the Heathen”

Buxtehude

Camellia Delk, violin

*Doxology

No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

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Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

“Are You The One Who Is To Come?”

Rev. Don Hardman

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Take the bread as served; hold the cup to take together.

Hymn (remain seated)

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

No. 164

Benediction

Postlude

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

Nicolai/Bach

*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

CALENDAR

Today, 11/30 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am
Monday, 12/1 - Church office closed on Mondays; SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study), 6:00 pm
Tuesday, 12/2 - Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/3 - First Wed. Book Club, 9:30 am; Feast @ First, 6:00 pm; FirstKids Christmas Program, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary, Youth Group, 7:00 pm, (at FirstKids Event in Sanctuary); Carillonneurs, 7:00 pm
Thursday, 12/4 - Men’s Breakfast, IHOP (3926 Franklin Rd SW), 8:00 am
Friday, 12/5 - Prayer Mtg., 9:30 am

REMINDERS:

Elders: Don Andree, Scott Rice
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown, Bill Brooks
Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Nov. 30– Sue Brown; Dec. 7– Sue Brown; Dec. 14–Marcia Ridenhour; Dec. 21–Bob & Donna Broyles; Dec. 29–Don & Wendy Andree
Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Nov. 30–Artie & Catherine Bush; Dec. 7–Kaye Ward; Dec. 14–Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 21–Debra Mattern; Dec. 28–Ed & Debbie Bennett
Deacons on Duty: Nov. 30–Wendy Andree; Dec. 7–Karen Brooks; Dec. 14–Susan Blanding; Dec.21–Helen Gearhart; Dec. 28–Bob Caudle
Nursery Bible Time: Nov. 30–Diana Harvey; Dec. 7–Missy Reed; Dec. 14–Chris Ayers; Dec. 21–Karen Brooks; Dec. 28–Pat Povtak

Special thanks to Camellia Delk for playing the violin during our Offertory. Camellia teaches at our First Music Academy.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK: - Pray for parents. Deut. 6:4-6; Eph. 6:4, Eph. 6:10-11

PCC Food Needs - December - Beef Stew

First Foundations Class: For anyone considering membership at First EPC or wanting to know more about what we believe. 9am on Sunday morning, upstairs in Room 203. For more info, call the church office, 540-344-3204.

First Wednesday Book Club: Wed., Dec. 3rd, 9:30am,“At Home in Mitford” by Jan Karon. Please join us!!

Missionary Fellowship Meal: Gather with us Sunday, December 14th in the Fellowship Hall after worship to meet EPC Missionaries, Josh & Katya, and learn about their work in Spain. Fried chicken will be provided and everyone is asked to bring a side, salad, or dessert. Please make plans to be there.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry: Thanks to everyone who participated this year. Our church provided 80 filled shoeboxes to the local collection center and the boxes are now in enroute o be distributed to children around the world. Thank you again for your generosity.

Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman
Director of Music: Rev. Keith Olivier
Director of Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose

Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today’s service