

December 14, 2025

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

3rd Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Chiming of the Bells

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

Choir Advent Introit “Prepare the Royal Highway” Stanzas 1-3

Announcements

Prelude “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. Cummins

Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

People: The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.

Leader: He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

All: I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

-Psalm 18:1-3 NIV

\*Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” No. 194

\*Prayer of Adoration

\*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Precious Lord, We frequently live our lives with such small mindsets. We confess that we walk in dark places, wrapped deep in our interior worlds of fear, failings and distractions. Meanwhile, we miss the coming King, poised to bring hope and joy to the earth. Forgive us for being stuck in our comfortable and dormant routines. Bring us into a life full of Your presence. Illuminate our vision, so that we can once again behold our greatest love. We wait in eager anticipation for Jesus, the assurance of our salvation. Glory to God in the highest! In whose name we pray. Amen

(silent personal confession)

\*Assurance of Pardon

“For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:11-12). Friends, in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.” Thanks be to God!

\*Gloria Patri No. 735

Lighting of the Advent Candle Sara King and Eric LaPrad

(The congregation may come forward to place their 2¢-A-Meal offering in the container at the front of the Sanctuary)

\*Hymn of Preparation “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” (See Insert)

\*Affirmation of Faith “The Apostles’ Creed” Page 845

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 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” by Laurentius Laurenti, arr. Scott,

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory “Once He Came In Blessing” arr. Held

\*Doxology No. 731

\*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-7 page 739

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “The Everlasting Joy is Jesus”  
Rev. Don Hardman

\*Hymn “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” No. 203

Benediction

Postlude “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending” Olivers

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

CALENDAR

Today, 12/14 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Missionary Fellowship Meal, (FH), 11:45 am  
Monday, 12/15 - Church office closed on Mondays; SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study), 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, 12/16 - Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study, 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm  
Wednesday, 12/17 - FirstKids & Youth Group, 6:00 pm; Carillonners, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, 12/18 - Men’s Breakfast, IHOP (3926 Franklin Rd SW), 8:00 am  
Friday, 12/19 - Prayer Mtg., 9:30 am  
Saturday, 12/20—Roanoque Baroque Performance, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

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): Dec. 14—Marcia Ridenhour; Dec. 21—Bob & Donna Broyles;  
Dec. 28—Don & Wendy Andree  
**Greeters Narthex** (10:00-10:30): Dec. 14—Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 21—Debra Mattern;  
Dec. 28—Ed & Debbie Bennett  
**Deacons on Duty:** Dec. 14—Susan Blanding; Dec.21—Helen Gearhart; Dec. 28—Bob Caudle  
**Nursery Bible Time:** Dec. 14—Chris Ayers; Dec. 21—Karen Brooks; Dec. 28—Pat Povtak

**PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK:** - Pray for Judicial rulers. 2 Chr. 19:6-7, Ps. 82:3-4, 1 Peter 2:14

**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.

**Missionary Fellowship Meal:** Gather with us TODAY, 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 join us!

**Two Cents-a-Meal:** Contributions of 2 cents a meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty are collected today. These resources are distributed to our community through The Presbyterian Community Center.

**First Wednesday Book Club:** Note there’s a date and location change in the upcoming Book Club meeting: The group will meet on **Monday, January 5, 2026** at 9:30 am at **Ann Webb’s home**. “Shepherd’s Abiding” by Jan Karon is the book to read before this gathering. Please join us!

**Monday Night SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study):** Chris Ayers invites all women to join in as a new study begins on Monday, 1/26/2026, 6:00-7:30 pm (Parlor). Using **Gospel on the Ground** by Kristi McClelland as our guide, we will be studying the book of Acts.. Contact Chris at 540-798-6919 or by email at robert.chris.ayers@cox.net before 1/4/2026 if you’re interested, so that study books can be ordered.

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*