

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 4, 2022

2nd 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.)

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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, Emmanuel" arr. Held

Call to Worship The Rev. Robert Smith

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

People: The Lord has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He remembers His steadfast love and faithfulness.

All: His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for Him.
For the Lord has made known His salvation.

From Psalm 98

*Hymn "Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People" Insert

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, our Father, Forgive us for our many sins. We are easily captivated by the objects that our eyes desire. We fall so often, and when we do, we run and hide in shame instead of running to you to confess our sin and find joy and forgiveness in the cross. You have given us your most cherished treasure, yet we prize many other things more highly than Christ. Forgive us for trusting in our own strength more than in his power to save us completely. We live each day with hearts full of our own desires, minds full of our own agendas and plans for our own self-promotion. Forgive us, Lord. Fill us with everlasting wonder that the gospel is true. You kept your promise to send a Savior; help us to stop trying to rescue others and ourselves. When we are tempted to sin, remind us of Christ, who kept all your laws for us, and fix our eyes on him. Whether we give in to temptation or resist, show us Christ, our only hope for the perfect obedience that we require to stand before you. Give us the kind of heart that serves you with peaceful abandon, unconcerned about our own welfare and reputation, submissive and quiet before you. Cause us to cherish Christ above all our other desires, so that we will be satisfied in him for all eternity. In his name we pray. Amen.

Adapted from [Prone to Wander: Prayers of Confession and Celebration](#).

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." Beloved, in Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*Gloria Patri No. 579

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Caldwell Family

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Children's Time The Rev. Robert Smith

Children's Worship is provided for ages 4-4th grade in Room 205. Parents, please escort your children to this room.

*Hymn of Preparation "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" No. 221

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 Page 686

Leader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Anthem "How Shall We Know Him?" Martin

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12 Page 957

Sermon "Kingdom Prep" The Rev. Robert Smith

RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

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

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 742

The Offering of Ourselves to God and to One Another

Our Greetings

Offertory "Savior of the Nations Come" arr. Kramer
Carillonners Handbell Choir

*"The Doxology" No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor" No. 230

Advent Amen "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel. Amen!"

Postlude "Toccata on *Veni, Redemptor gentium*" Manz

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

CALENDAR

Today, 12/4 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Diaconate Meeting, 11:45 am; Mission Team Mtg., 11:45 am
Monday, 12/5 - Church office closed on Mondays; Sermon Apps, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, 12/6 - SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study), 9:30 am; Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/7 – Feast @ First, 6:00 pm; Youth Group, 6:30 pm; First Kids, 6:30 pm; Carillonners, 7:00 pm
Thursday, 12/8 - Staff Mtg., 10:00 am; Mission & Outreach Commission Mtg., 5:30pm
Friday, 12/9 – Prayer Mtg., 9:30 am

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REMINDERS

Elders: Andy Fuller, Lew Richardson
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown
Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 4 – Robert & Donna Broyles; Dec. 11 - CP & Carol Lockhart; Dec. 18 - Don & Wendy Andree; Dec. 25 - Nancy Poore
Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Dec. 4 - Ed & Debbie Bennett; Dec. 11 - Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 18 - Tom & Helen Thompson; Dec. 25 - Jeff & Pat Povtak
Deacons on Duty: Dec. 4 – Alison Boozer; Kim Smith; Dec. 11 - Melanie Rice, Marcia Ridenhour; Dec. 18 – Carolyn Keyes, Sidney Keyes; Dec. 25 – Debbie Bennett, Mary Thornhill
Acolytes: Dec. 4 - Bryleigh Trevett; Dec. 11 - Elizabeth Rice; Dec. 18 - Charlotte Bain
Children's Worship:
Dec. 4 - Advent 2, Mary and Joseph Show the Way to Bethlehem (#18); Leader: Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Mike Trail
Dec. 11 - Advent 3, The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem (#19); Leader: Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Chris Ayers
Dec. 18 - Advent 4, The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem (#20); Leader: Deborah Mattern; Greeter: Delaney McLaughlin

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PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK – Pray wayward children will find/return to Jesus. Isaiah 60:4-5

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PCC Food Needs - December - Beef Stew

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

Pastor: The Rev. Robert D. Smith
Director of Music & Children’s Ministries: Mrs. Patricia K. Trail
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose