

Serving Today

GUEST ORGANIST: Jenny Dougan
GREETER/USHER: Gerry Morie - Fellowship Center
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS & Don Thompson - Chapel
LITURGISTS: Richard and Nancy Meyer - Fellowship Center
SOUND: Dan Dietrich
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES: Russ Pearson

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

First Presbyterian Church
Kingsport, Tennessee

Seeking to see the face of Christ...
Striving to be the hands of Christ



Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE		
Bells of God’s Presence		
Welcome		
PreLUDE (8:45) (11:00)	“Wexford Carol” “How Far Is it to Bethlehem?” <i>Agnese Goin, soprano; Jenny Dougan, piano</i>	arr. Karl Pohl A. Rowley
LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP		
One: Our God is a Holy God, pure in righteousness, fierce in justice, whose flame is the fire of truth.		
All: If the Lord kept a record of our sins, who could stand? God’s glory is more than we could bear.		
One: Yet God’s holiness is made perfect in love. His fire consumes our sin and purifies our hearts.		
All: In God’s judgement we find God’s mercy. In God’s mercy we receive true peace.		
One: Lord of grace, we enter into your presence with trembling; we invite you into our hearts with trust.		
Visit us with the refining power of your love. Melt all the strife within us. Dissolve the chains of our own making with your Spirit of holiness that brings your peace. With this prayer, we light this candle in the name of the coming Prince of Peace...		
(Sung)	<i>Lord of light, Lord of love, come to us heavenly Dove; With this candle, with this flame, we invite you in Jesus’ name; Grant us heavenly peace, grant us your heavenly peace.</i>	(Silent Night)
*ADVENT CAROL	“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?” <i>O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.</i> <i>Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.</i> <i>You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.</i>	No. 104
CALL TO CONFESSION		
PRAYER OF CONFESSION		
God of all seasons, how quickly the year flies by, and we are caught unprepared for your Son. We are still recovering from Thanksgiving or the latest crisis or a long list of things to do. The demands on our time seem unending; our energy is draining. God, speak to us in the stillness of this moment. Let there be a space for you amid the rush: an inner place that cherishes silence, that keeps a candle lit and a manger ready. God of all seasons, create in us a place for your birth...		
KYRIE	(silent prayer) <i>Have mercy, Lord Jesus, come down from above; O infant so gentle, incarnate in love; Have mercy, dear Savior, forgive all our sin; our hearts be your manger, be born here within.</i>	CRADLE SONG
ASSURANCE OF PARDON		
Leader: God does not remain angry with us and is quick to forgive us.		
Indeed, God sent his only Son not to condemn, but to save us. In Christ we are a forgiven people.		
People: Thanks be to God!		
*SONG OF RESPONSE		
<i>Praise we now the Prince of Peace, as in humble birth He came—in His birth our strivings cease; through this earth His praise proclaim: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!</i>		
*PEACE OF CHRIST		

HEARING GOD’S WORD		
TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES		
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION		
NEW TESTAMENT READING	<i>Romans 13: 11-14</i>	
GOSPEL READING	<i>Luke 2: 1-4</i>	
SERMON	“In God’s Time”	Mike Shelton
RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD		
*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 2203	“In His Time”	
*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH	<i>Nicene Creed</i>	
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.		
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.		
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.		
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.		
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.		
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.		
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.		
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.		
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.		
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.		
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER		
OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD		
(8:45)	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	
	<i>How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!</i>	
	<i>So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear can hear him coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.</i>	
	<i>So, silently, with hearts made meek, we kneel before your birth; With souls set free from pride and fear, we find, in you, our worth. Accept, O babe of heaven, the hopes and trust we bring, That you may grow and live in us, our lives an offering.</i>	
(11:00)	“Keep Your Lamps”	A. Thomas
PRAYER OF DEDICATION		
Holy God, it is with joy that we respond to your presence in our lives. We ask that you receive these gifts and offerings as our “thank you.” Thank you for choosing us as your own. Thank you for guiding and protecting us through life’s storms. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. Thank you for your love. Amen.		
THE SENDING		
*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 137	“He Came Down”	
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION		
*CONCLUDING PRAISE	“People, Look East”	arr. L. Larson
*Those who are able please stand		