

Serving Today

GUEST ORGANIST: Tim Hagy
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS & Virginia Wooten - Chapel
LITURGISTS: Russ Pearson - Fellowship Center
SOUND: Dan Dietrich
GREETERS & USHER: Don Thompson - Chapel
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



First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Victor Labenske
Tim Hagy, guest organist

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In a world where God’s way seems hidden, and our way seems heavy with anxiety,
All: **There is a glimmer of hope, for God never grows tired, but gives strength to the weary.**
One: In a world plagued by darkness, God places a star of new hope in the night.
All: **Then let us light one candle of hope, that we may welcome God’s presence.**
One: Now is the time when we come to our end, when we’ve exhausted our best. Now is the hour unexpected.
Now comes the sense of a special new dawn. The night air carries the fragrance of grace.
The hour has come to wake from our slumber. Come, let us kindle a new flame of faith.
Now let us light this candle of hope:

*(Sung) O come. O come, Emmanuel, O Light of heaven, here within us dwell;
Within our darkness, shine, holy Light; Come heal our blindness, grant us Lord new sight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! God’s light dispels our fear. Our Savior, birthed in glory, now draws near.*

*ADVENT CAROL “Prepare the Way, O Zion” No. 106
*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.
He brings God’s rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love. Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
We confess to you, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions, and live our lives without much thought outside of ourselves. Forgive us for our shortsightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonder that you are doing something new in the world and in our lives. Help us to seek you in the face of others. Call us into your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching for your return in new ways...
(silent prayer)

KYRIE
*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We know that Christ has already come into our world and has already been born in us. We feel renewed and restored. So, go share the good news of God’s love and restoration.
People: **Thanks be to God!**

*SONG OF RESPONSE
*Praise we now the Prince of Peace, as in humble birth He came—soon will come, that wars may cease;
through this earth His praise proclaim: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*PEACE OF CHRIST

HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 49:1-7*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Hebrews 1:1-4*

SERMON “A Destiny from Birth” Mike Shelton

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 92 “While We Are Waiting, Come”

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
(11:00) Communion will be served by intinction at the 11:00 a.m. service. Worshippers are invited to come forward by rows, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and partake. If you prefer, individual cups are available from the elder closest to the outside aisle. If you have difficulty coming to the front of the sanctuary, an elder will be happy to serve you in your seat.
INVITATION
WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE
MUSICAL MEDITATION
PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD
(8:45) “In the Bleak Midwinter”
*God, who came from heaven, far beyond this earth; God, whose mind is mystery, knelt to us in birth.
Holy Sovereign of all life, Word in flesh made known; Holy Lamb of glory, you made us your own.
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.*
(11:00) “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness” J. Raney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
We enter this season, holy God, in which giving is the primary focus. We ask for grace that we might not push our giving to you to the bottom of our priorities, and that the joy of your gift to us in your Son will permeate our hearts and lives. We offer our time, talents, and treasure to you with grateful and generous spirits. Amen!

THE SENDING

*HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONCLUDING PRAISE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Part 2 Victor Labenske

*Those who are able please stand