

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGSPORT, TN

Sunday, December 1, 2024 ~ 11:00 a.m.



BELLS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(arr. David Lanz)

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ Paul, Debra and Troy Smith

Leader: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah." Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

**People: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.**

Leader: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God's kingdom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

SUNG RESPONSE:

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

*O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

HYMN NO. 82

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we confess that our hope often wavers. We place trust in things that cannot last, and let fear overshadow Your promises. Forgive us for doubting Your faithfulness and restore in us a steadfast hope in You. Help us to face each day with courage, anchored in the hope we have in Your Son, Jesus Christ.** *(Moment of silent confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SONG OF RESPONSE

*(tune of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel")*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURE

*Isaiah 61:1-2*

SERMON

"Searching for Hope"

Russ Pearson

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"What Feast of Love"

(tune of "Greensleeves")

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

"Waiting"

*(Pepper Choplin)*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN OF SENDING NO. 88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(vs. 1, 2, 6)*

*(Please remain seated for the final hymn and concluding praise)*

POSTLUDE

"Gloria"

*(Antonio Vivaldi)*

BENEDICTION

**THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

in memory of Dr. William Blass “The Wizard” and in honor of Bryan K. Underwood and his marvelous music  
by Betty Blass

in honor of our church staff by Dorothy Lightfoot

in honor of Mike and Donna Shelton and Russ, Eva, Laine and Caroline Pearson  
with love and appreciation for all that they do for our church by Ivey and Sue Redmon

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**Prayer List**

**PRAYER FAMILIES OF THE WEEK**

Emily Gaude; Gerry Mayberry; Frank Gibson; Cliff and Donna Marchion; Dave Hafele; and Larry and Barbara Maston.

**MISSIONARIES** – Eliane Menezes, Guatemala.

**“The Nutcracker” ~ December 12, 9:30 a.m., Toy F. Reid Auditorium,**

Tickets: \$5 each. If interested, call or text Barbara Foust at (423)306-6514 by **December 2** .

**White Gift Offering**

Pick up a White Gift bag today to help the Waverly Road Food Pantry. A list of needed items is attached to the bag. Fill the bag and return it to church on **December 8**. If you wish to make a monetary donation, write a check to First Presbyterian Church with a notation for the Food Pantry. Checks may be placed in the Offering Plates.

**Opportunities for Salvation Army Christmas Program**

To sign up for one or two hours to ring bells at Red Kettles on **Saturday, December 14**, from 10-6 at Food City on Clinchfield Street, contact Catherine Tucker (423-782-7782 or tuckersbigblue@gmail.com).

**Church Circle Live Nativity ~ Sunday, December 15 ~ 6-8 p.m.**

**Christmas Schedule**

- ◆ December 22 ~ Children’s Pageant, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Center
- ◆ December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Communion & Carols Service, 4:00 p.m., Fellowship Center
- ◆ December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols Service, 5:30 p.m., Sanctuary
- ◆ December 29 ~ Combined Worship, 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

**Birthdays This Week**

**December 1:** Linda Buckles, Mike Babb, John Kunysz

**December 2:** Frank Gibson, McClure Mink

**December 4:** Gary Hallen, Margaret Callcott

**December 5:** Gillian Brents, Camden Argabrite

**December 6:** Aidan Smith, Cliff Marchion

**December 8:** Chris Raines, Elizabeth Booher

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**WONDER by Tanner Olson**

*Hope from the heavens*

*Wonder fills the world*

*Glory in the highest is now beside us*

*And I can’t help but wonder ... why?*

*Why would you leave home?*

*Why step down from your throne?*

*Why leave where you reign to take on our sin and stain?*

*Humble beauty appears*

*To meet our wonder and fears*

*A promise from long before*

*You were sent to restore*

*And our groaning questions were given an answer*

*To worship and adore*

*Everything changed when Immanuel arrived.*

*Heaven has come and I no longer need to wonder why*

*You met our shame with a grace that will forever reign*

*You took on the world’s pain*

*Broke every chain for our gain*

*You entered strife*

*So we could have everlasting life*

*Love has arrived*

*and no longer do I need to wonder why.*