

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

***The FIRST Week of Advent:***  
*December 3, 2023 at 10 am*

*"I watch in **hope** for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior . . ." (Micah 7:7)*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

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**HYMN #2: "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"**

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Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.  
  
Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

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**HYMN #60: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT"**

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Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
  
Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!"

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)**

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**O promised Christ:  
We live in a world of chaos, turmoil, and war.  
Our peace depends on your coming.**

**We are a sinful people.  
Our pardon depends on your coming.**

**We are full of good intentions but weak in living according to your will;  
Our faithfulness depends on your coming.**

**Forgive us and restore us to the joy of your salvation.**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh:  
our world waits for your peace,  
for your pardon,  
and for your grace.**

**Our hope is in you; come, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.**

*After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.*

**CHOIR: "PREPARE YE"**

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**THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE**

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Sermon: *"Love: Our Highest Goal"*

**1 Corinthians 12:31-14:1**

Now let me show you a way of life that is best of all.

<sup>1</sup> If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

<sup>8</sup> Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! <sup>9</sup> Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! <sup>10</sup> But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

<sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. <sup>12</sup> Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

<sup>13</sup> Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

<sup>1</sup> Let love be your highest goal!

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***“BIND US TOGETHER”***

*Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together with cords  
That cannot be broken;  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together with love.*

There is only one God;  
There is only one King;  
There is only one body;  
That is why we can sing. [REFRAIN]

Made for the glory of God;  
Purchased by His precious Son;  
Born with the right to be clean;  
For Jesus the vict'ry has won. [REFRAIN]

*“Bind Us Together” by Bob Gillman;  
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**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS**

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support  
our deacons’ provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

*Our practice is to eat the bread individually as it is distributed,  
and to hold onto the cup until all have received it, and then partake of it in unison.*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer***

***Passing the Peace: “May the peace of Christ be with you”***

\* *Please stand if you are able*

## **Communion**

### ***The Nicene Creed (Section about Jesus)***

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.

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### ***"HERE IS LOVE, VAST AS THE OCEAN"***

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Here is love vast as the ocean  
Loving kindness as the flood  
When the Prince of life our ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood  
Who His love will not remember  
Who can cease to sing His praise  
He will never be forgotten  
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide  
Grace and love like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above  
Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.

*"Here is Love" by Robert Lowry, William Edwards, and William Rees,  
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## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

\* *Please stand if you are able*

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- Sunday, Dec 3** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)  
First Sunday of Advent, Communion (10:00 worship service)  
*Celebration of former pastor Bert Rutan's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday*  
Youth Group (1:00 pm Church Parking)
- Tuesday, Dec 5** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Friday, Dec 8** Christmas Open House (6:30 pm)
- Sunday, Dec 10** Second Sunday of Advent (10:00 worship service)