

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

The FIRST week of Advent (HOPE)

Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 10 am

*“The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him;
it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.” (Lamentations 3:25–26)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #9: *O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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HYMN #48: *LO HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *AND* ASSURANCE OF PARDON
(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)

God of Light and Life:

As we prepare our hearts this Advent,
 we are painfully aware of our need for a Savior.

We've spent hours interacting with the people around us,
 but failed to truly care for them.

We've talked about the importance of justice
 but turned our eyes from the overlooked in front of us.

We've said you're the God who supplies all our needs,
 but clung tighter to our possessions when they seemed at risk.

We talk of a God who acts toward us,
 and calls forth hope, and peace, and joy, and love,
 but so often there's no hope, no peace, no joy, and no love in our lives.

**We look for light, but find only darkness,
 for brightness, but find changing shadows.**

This year we wait for you with a sobering awareness
 of our failing to love you with our whole being,
 or to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, Lord!

And now hear our personal and private prayers . . .

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

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HYMN #155: *REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING*

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
 Your Lord and King adore!
 Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
 And triumph evermore:
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

God's kingdom cannot fail,
 Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
 The keys of death and hell
 Are to our Jesus given:
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
 For Christ the Judge shall come
 To glorify the saints
 For their eternal home:
 Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
 Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"How Do We Prepare for Jesus' Arrival?"*

Matthew 24:30, 36–44

"And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

³⁷ "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹ People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

⁴⁰ "Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

⁴² "So you, too, must keep watch! For you don't know what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

Romans 13:11–14

. . . You know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

2 Peter 3:10–14

The day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. ¹³ But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

¹⁴ And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight.

RESPONDING 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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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *AND* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #40: *JOY TO THE WORLD*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
 Let us our songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary) Sharing Table (before and after the service)
Tuesday, Dec. 2	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Wednesday, Dec. 3	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Saturday, Dec. 6	Greening of the Church (9:00 – 12:00) Christmas Open House (6:30 – 8:00)
Sunday, Dec. 7	Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	December 21: Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service (5:00 pm) December 24: Family Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm) Traditional Candlelight Service (10:00 pm)

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