

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

The FIRST Week of Advent:

November 27, 2022 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"

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, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his Word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

There is no darkness with you, O Lord.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plenteous redemption.

Our hope is in you, O Lord.

With expectant hearts we await Christ's coming.

**As once he came in humility,
so may he come in glory,
that he may make all things perfect
in your everlasting kingdom.**

For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Based on Psalm 130:5-7

HYMN #60: "SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT" (verses 1-3)

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!"

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

O promised Christ:
We live in a broken world of war, violence, and hostility—
and, in spite of our desire to be different,
we, too, are sinful people.
Our pardon depends on your coming.
We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises;
our only hope of doing God's will
is that you should come and help us do it.
Lord Christ, Word made flesh,
our world waits for your peace,
for your pardon,
and for your grace.
Stir our hearts, that we might be people of hope;
Our hope is in you; come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
 And gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars together
 Proclaim the holy birth!
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"The Unsanitized Christmas Story, Part 1: Mary and an Angel"*—Chuck Guth

Luke 1:26-56

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. For the word of God will never fail."

Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, "God has blessed you above all women, and your child is blessed. Why am I so honored, that the mother of my Lord should visit me? When I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what he said."

Mary responded,

"Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.
How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!
For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,
and from now on all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One is holy,
and he has done great things for me.
He shows mercy from generation to generation
to all who fear him.
His mighty arm has done tremendous things!
He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.
He has brought down princes from their thrones
and exalted the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away with empty hands.
He has helped his servant Israel
and remembered to be merciful.
For he made this promise to our ancestors,
to Abraham and his children forever."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The ceramic jars in the offering plates are designated for the Deacons' Fund **and** the World Vision Fund. Our deacons provide care, support, and financial assistance to those in the congregation in need. The World Vision Fund supports a Sponsored Child through World Vision.*

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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 Ghost. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* *Please stand if you are able*

HYMN #525: "HERE I AM, LORD"

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
 I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in deepest sin
 My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,
 I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord,

If You lead me,

I will hold Your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain
 I have borne My people's pain.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
 I will break their hearts of stone,
 Give them hearts for love alone.
 I will speak My word to them.
 Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
 I will tend the poor and lame.
 I will set a feast for them,
 My hand will save.
 Finest bread I will provide
 Till their hearts be satisfied.
 I will give my life to them.
 Whom shall I send?

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CHURCH CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3 (Sat)	Greening of the Church (9:00 am)
December 8 (Thurs)	Session Meeting (7:00 pm)
December 9 (Fri)	Christmas Tree Lighting/Community Outreach (6:30 pm)
December 15 (Thurs)	Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
December 18 (Sun)	Christmas Cantata: " <i>By Heaven's Light</i> " (10:00)
December 20 (Tues)	Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
December 24 (Sat)	Christmas Eve Services (5:00 and 10:00 pm)