Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 10 am

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. . . .
In his name the nations will put their hope." (Matthew 12:18, 21)

PRELUDE

WELCOME *and* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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]*

PASSING THE PEACE *and* PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

* 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)

O Root of Jesse,
the One who came to fill our hearts with hope;
we place our hope in You.

We confess how easily we stop waiting for your coming.

We trust in what we can manage,
and we don't really pray for your kingdom
because we no longer truly expect it to come.
We have settled for a world as it is,
and forgotten the world you have promised.

Forgive us for the places where our hope fades,
where our thoughts and actions fail to conform to your image,
where we have given up on you, and on one another.

We come to You, Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
and rely on You to take away our sins.

We thank You that Your grace is sufficient for our every shortcoming.
You, Jesus, are our hope, joy, and peace, in this and every season.

Hear, now, our personal and private confessions . . . .

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

* HYMN: *THE GOODNESS OF GOD*

I love You, Lord,
Oh Your mercy never fails me;
All my days, I've been held in Your hands.
From the moment that I wake up,
Until I lay my head,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

And all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good;
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice;
You have led me through the fire;
In darkest night You are close like no other.
I've known You as a Father,
I've known You as a Friend,
And I have lived in the goodness of God. *[Refrain]*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now,
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *[Twice]*

And all my life You have been faithful,
And all my life You have been so, so good;
With every breath that I am able,
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God. [Twice]

I will sing of the goodness of God.
I will sing of the goodness of God.

"The Goodness of God" by Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, and Jenn Johnson.
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"A God Who Comes Close: Near Enough to See Us and Hear Us"*

Isaiah 64:1, 4

Oh, that you would burst from the heavens and come down!
How the mountains would quake in your presence!

4 For since the world began,
no ear has heard

and no eye has seen a God like you,
who works for those who wait for him!

Mark 10:46–52

Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road. 47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him.

But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here."

So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!" 50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"My Rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

Psalm 34:15, 17–18

The eyes of the LORD watch over those who do right;
his ears are open to their cries for help. . . .

17 The LORD hears his people when they call to him for help.
He rescues them from all their troubles.

18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

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.

* *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

* 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. 1	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30) Worship at Channel Point (10:30) Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
Wednesday, Dec. 2	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Saturday, Dec. 5	Greening of the Church (9:00–12:00) Christmas Open House (6:30–8:00)
Sunday, Dec. 7	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
LOOKING AHEAD	See "Christmas at First" Bulletin Insert

We have hearing assistance device/headphones for those who could use a bit of a "volume boost" during the services. You will find them in a drawer, in the table where you pick up your bulletin. If you need help finding them, ask!

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