

# *Worship at First Presbyterian Church*

*The SECOND week of Advent (PEACE)*

*Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 10 am*

*"Look, a righteous king is coming!*

*Justice will rule in the wilderness and righteousness in the fertile field.*

*And this righteousness will bring peace." (Isaiah 32:1, 16-17)*

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 AND PASSING THE PEACE

PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION AND THE WORLD

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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## HYMN #41: *O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL*

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O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
 Born this happy morning,  
 Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 Now in flesh appearing! *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation!  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God, all  
 Glory in the highest! *[Refrain]*

CHOIR: *PERFECT ROSE*

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#### READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

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Sermon: *"Where is Jesus When the Waiting Hurts?"*

Matthew 3:1–12

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, <sup>2</sup> "Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." <sup>3</sup> The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

"He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
 'Prepare the way for the LORD's coming!  
 Clear the road for him!'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. <sup>6</sup> And when they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. "You brood of snakes!" he exclaimed. "Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. <sup>9</sup> Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

Luke 7:17–23

The news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

<sup>18</sup> The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, <sup>19</sup> and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?"

<sup>20</sup> John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, "John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?'"

<sup>21</sup> At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." <sup>23</sup> And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."

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#### RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*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

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*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*

*Communion*

*The Apostles' Creed*

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;*

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,*

*suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

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#### HYMN #38: IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

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It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;

"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
 From heaven's all gracious King":  
 The world in solemn stillness lay,  
 To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
 With peaceful wings unfurled,  
 And still their heavenly music floats  
 O'er all the weary world;  
 Above its sad and lowly plains  
 They bend on hovering wing,  
 And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
 The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
 Whose forms are bending low,  
 Who toil along the climbing way  
 With painful steps and slow,  
 Look now! for glad and golden hours  
 Come swiftly on the wing;  
 O rest beside the weary road,  
 And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
 By prophet bards foretold,  
 When with the ever circling years  
 Comes round the age of gold;  
 When peace shall over all the earth  
 Its ancient splendors fling,  
 And the whole world send back the song  
 Which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## CALENDAR

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| TODAY              | Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor)<br>Sunday Worship with Communion (10:00 in the Sanctuary)  |
| Monday, Dec. 8     | Stewardship (1:00–2:00)  |
| Tuesday, Dec. 9    | Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)  |
| Wednesday, Dec. 10 | Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)  |
| Thursday, Dec. 11  | Session (7:00 pm)  |
| Saturday, Dec. 13  | Creation Station (11:00–1:00)  |
| Sunday, Dec. 14    | Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)  |
| LOOKING AHEAD      | December 21: Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service (5:00 pm)<br>December 24: Family Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm)<br>Traditional Candlelight Service (10:00 pm) |

### Church Financial Update (through November)

Actual Expenses to Date: \$191,871    ➤    Giving to Date: \$179,114

*Thank you for your faithful and generous support of our church and its mission!*

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