

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

November 27, 2022

10:00am

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Wait for the Lord”

“Comfort, Comfort You My People”

“Christ Is Coming!”

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

“Emanuel, Emanuel”

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHIMES

(The pouring of water invites us to remember and to celebrate our baptism into the body of Christ.)

PRELUDE

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” (Nicolai-Bach)

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your immediate neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

CALL TO WORSHIP

O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.

Be alert! Keep awake!

The time is drawing near: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our God is an awesome God!

Let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN #81** *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”* (Haydn)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead, you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead, you are born among us as an infant. Instead, you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So, we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. **Amen.**

***GLORIA PATRI #581** *“Glory Be to the Father”* (Greatorex)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 122

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 13:11-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come to the Light" (Martin) (Choir Ensemble)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 24:36-44

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

*HYMN #82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (Pritchard)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, he is our Lord and our God. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God has enriched us in every way—in speech, knowledge, and spiritual gifts. From the fellowship of Jesus Christ, we are sent out to share with thanksgiving what we have received.

MUSICAL OFFERING *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* (Broughton)

***DOXOLOGY #606**

Genevan Psalter

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity in us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***OUR LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #648** *“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”* (Nelson)
(sing twice) (November Hymn of the Month)

***MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH**

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

“Soon and Very Soon”

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.
Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

Elements of Worship Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.