

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHRIST,
OUR PROMISE

ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

NOVEMBER 30, 2014
8:15 a.m.



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship
and silence your mobile devices.*

Gaze on that helpless object, of Endless adoration!
Those infant hands shall burst our bands, and work out our salvation.
Strangle the crooked serpent, destroy his works forever,
And open set the heavenly gate to every true believer.

– Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness,
and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;
through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: “Savior of the Nations Come” J.S. Bach
Samuel Metzger, organ

HARP AND VIOLIN PRELUDE: “Interlude from Ceremony of Carols” Benjamin Britten
I Wonder as I Wander Appalachian Carol/ arr. G.A. Smith
Marian Schaffer, harp; Long Long Kang, violin

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE. Lisa Ritenour, Betty Eubank,
& Tina Walker

CHORAL INTROIT: “Long Ago, Prophets Knew” PIAE CANTONES

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new; bear His people’s burden, freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When He comes, when He comes, who will make Him welcome?*

God in time, God in man, this is God’s timeless plan:
He will come, as a man, born Himself of woman, God divinely human.

Mary hail! Though afraid, she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid: till the time expected, nurtured and protected.

Journey ends! Where afar Bethlehem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar — unborn Son of Mary, Savior, do not tarry!

*The Westminster Singers
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music
Quinn Peebles, guitar*

CALL TO WORSHIP Michael C. Davis

♠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF ADVENT:

No. 194 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL

♠ READING FROM THE PROPHETS: Isaiah 59:15b-21 Zach Pennington

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.

**He saw that there was no man,
and wondered that there was no one to intercede;**

then his own arm brought him salvation,
and his righteousness upheld him.

**He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;**

he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

**According to their deeds, so will he repay,
wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render repayment.**

So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,
and his glory from the rising of the sun;

**for he will come like a rushing stream,
which the wind of the Lord drives.**

“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord.

“And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord:

“My Spirit that is upon you,
and my words that I have put in your mouth,
shall not depart out of your mouth,

**or out of the mouth of your offspring,
or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the Lord,
“from this time forth and forevermore.”**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: “Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree” Elizabeth Poston

*This anonymous text first appeared in a New England Hymnal in 1784
and has long been used as an Advent hymn.*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne’er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see ‘tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I’m weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive:
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CRUSADER’S HYMN

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Gerry A. Peak

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

HOMILY *Christ in the Pentateuch* Sanders L. Willson

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

✦INVITATION TO THE TABLE

All those who have publicly professed their faith and joined a Christian church as a communing member are warmly welcomed to receive communion today. Non-communing worshipers are encouraged to contemplate the love of Jesus Christ during this time. At Second Presbyterian, we encourage our children not to take communion until they have joined the church as communicant members.

We do, however, encourage non-communing children to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing. Those wishing to be served communion together as a group or family, please stand together in front of the two serving elders before taking the elements.

Gluten free communion bread is available upon request from the elder at the east side of the transverse aisle (opposite from the door leading to the Connector).

✦PROFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;**

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

✦GLORIA PATRI GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, Amen!**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, we have not kept watch for You.
We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.
We have not waited to find Your will for us.
We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.
We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.
Help us to wait to know Your will.
Help us to look out for the needs of others.
Help us to work and watch for Your coming. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND THE 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. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

For those unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat.

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATIONS

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

*Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love’s sake becamest poor.*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”*

“Away in a Manger” CRADLE SONG

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ZLOBIE LEZY

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦SENDING HYMN: No. 195 “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” ANTIOCH

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on “Joy to the World” Michael Dell

✦Indicates congregation standing

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