

First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 3, 2017 · 11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

We live in a world rife with conflict, terror, and the works of darkness, which tend to breed fearful, faithless, and discouraged hearts. The biblical antidote is to come into the house of the Lord and worship Him. We know that Jesus Christ left the perfection of heaven to endure the indignity and humiliation of suffering and death so that He might rise again and give all those who trust Him immortal life. Knowing this fills our hearts with wonder and joy, so let us prepare our hearts to worship.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, give us grace,
that we may cast away the works of darkness
and put upon us 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, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: "From Heaven Above I Come to You" Johann Pachelbel
Samuel Metzger, organ

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "We Three Kings" arr. Bruce Smith
Stephanie Hancock, clarinet; Dee Walker, flute

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE
Sheng and Rong Guo Zhou

CHORAL INTROIT: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!
*The Chancel Choir
Christy Young, director*

SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP Gerry A. Peak

✦PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF ADVENT:
No. 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Isaiah 65 Will Stevens

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;
**for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.**
I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people;
**no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.**

No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,

or an old man who does not fill out his days,

The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
and dust shall be the serpent's food.

**They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain," says the Lord.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign. Amen.**

✦ INVOCATION *(Please lift hands)*

✦ GREETINGS

✦ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Please stand)* T. Barton Kimbro

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ADVENT CANTICLE: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Mark Shepperd

Come, come Lord Jesus, come to set us free.
Come, come Lord Jesus, born to set your people free.
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.

Lizzy Jorgensen and Elizabeth Ann Hickman, soloists

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE REGENT SQUARE

**Now Redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear!
All His saints, by man rejected, now shall meet Him in the air.
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the day of God appear!**

**Yea, amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom for Thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly; alleluia! come, Lord, come.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

APOCALYPTIC LESSON Revelation 21:1-2, 5
(page 1041 in the pew Bible)

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)*

SERMON

A New Reality

George W. Robertson

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. An elder will serve gluten free communion bread to those who raise their hands.

✦ PROFESSION OF OUR 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 GREATOR EX

**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

**Gracious, heavenly Father,
all of us stand in fresh need of rescue and release
from the debt of our sin by our Lord Jesus Christ.
We confess as we begin this Advent that
instead of peaceful, we are anxious;
instead of joyful, we are irritable;
instead of amazed, we are indifferent;
and in the place of anticipation, we are fearful.
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished.
Pardon and free us from these parasitic sins that plague us,
for we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

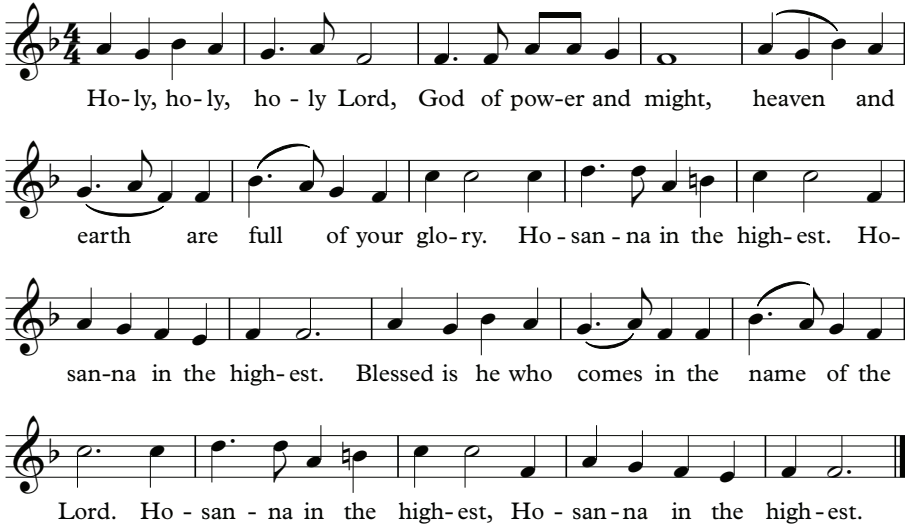
LITANY OF PRAISE

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our joyful duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto You, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God. And we praise You for Jesus Christ our Lord, Who has come to bring us light and life;

**Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify Your glorious Name;
evermore praising You and saying:**



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, Ho - san-na in the high-est.

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: "An Advent Prelude" Charles Callahan

SHARING OF THE CUP

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION: "What Child Is This?" Richard Purvis

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

♠HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" ANTIOCH

♠BENEDICTION (*Please lift hands*)

♠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

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

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on "Joy to the World" Michael Dell

♠Indicates congregation standing

I. Future (*Revelation 21:1, 5*)

A. New Creation

B. True World

II. Past (*Revelation 21:2*)

A. Coming Down

B. Bride Dressed