



ORDER FOR THE  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

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November 29, 2015  
*First Sunday of Advent*



*Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church.  
May our worship open our hearts to God's love, our eyes to God's beauty,  
our minds to God's truth, and our will to God's service.*

### A WORD ON 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; to 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 quick 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.*

### CELEBRATE THE PROMISED CHILD'S COMING

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

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "Zion Hears the Watchmen Calling" . . . . . J.S. Bach  
*Steve Hancock, violin; Shelley Sublett, English horn*

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE. . . . . Jim and Carolyn Spratley (8:15)  
Kurt, Melissa, Victor, Luther, and Inez Ruleman (11:00)

CHORAL INTROIT: "Creator of the Stars of Night" . . . . . 9th Century Plainchant

*Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray You, hear us when we call.*

*At Your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.*

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

*The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)  
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP. . . . . Michael C. Davis

♠PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Come, O Child of Promise" ..... EBENEZER  
Text by Gabriel Statom



1. Come, O Child of Pro - mise! Hear us, heal us,  
2. Long the time of sor - row; mour-ning still we  
3. Come, Thou Day-spring! Rod of Jes - se, Lamb of



weak and full of pain. Come, Re - deem - er!  
bear the weight of sin; long the time of  
God, our Li - on strong! Earth is yearn - ing



Else we ev - er help - less with - out Thee  
ex - pec - ta - tion, Sear and dry our hearts  
for Thy bles - sing, Bent be - neath the a -



re - main. Sa - vior! Son of Ma - ry, spot - less  
with - in. Wait! Hear now! A strong voice soft - ly  
ges long. First - born! See, Thy Church, still faith - ful



of - fering pure and free from stain; dwell a - mong us,  
speaks of joy and peace to come; through His pro-phets  
waits in song and si - lence now; till the crown of



now and e - er Through Thy cross turn us a - gain.  
God our Fa - ther Prom - ises to us His Son.  
earth and heav-en cir - cles Thy tri - um - phant brow.

♠PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Isaiah 59 ..... Ginni Fischer (8:15)  
Brandon Morrison (11:00)

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save,  
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

**but your iniquities have made a separation  
between you and your God,  
and your sins have hidden his face from you  
so that he does not hear.**

For our transgressions are multiplied before you,  
and our sins testify against us;  
for our transgressions are with us,  
and we know our iniquities:

**transgressing, and denying the Lord,  
and turning back from following our God,  
speaking oppression and revolt,  
conceiving and uttering from the heart lying words.**

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.**

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 . . . . . EBENEZER

**Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son.  
Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One.  
We, who with Thy choirs supernal  
Saints and angels, praise Thy Word,  
Pray Thee, spread abroad Thy glory,  
Lift Thy scepter, crown, and sword.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

## EXPERIENCE THE HUMBLE SAVIOR'S RESCUE

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;  
in place of wonder – we are complacent;  
and in the place of anticipation – we are fearful.  
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished.  
Save us from these parasitic sins that plague us all.  
For we pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦ HYMN OF ASSURANCE . . . . . HYFRYDOL

**Joy to those who long to see Thee,  
Dayspring from on high, appear;  
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,  
Of Thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to Him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth."**

**Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS. . . . . Richard G. Cain

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "O Savior of Our Fallen Race" . . . . . 6th Century Latin Hymn  
Adapted and arranged by Kristyn and Keith Getty

O Savior of our fallen race, O Brightness of the Father's face,  
O Son who shared the Father's might before the world knew day or night,  
O Jesus, very Light of light, our constant star in sin's deep night:  
Now hear the prayers Your people pray throughout the world this holy day.

Remind us, Lord, of life and grace how once, to save our fallen race,  
You put our human vesture on and came to us as Mary's son.  
Today, as year by year its light brings to our world a promise bright,  
One precious truth outshines the sun: salvation comes from You alone.

For from the Father's throne You came, His banished children to reclaim;  
And earth and sea and sky revere the love of Him who sent You here.  
And we are jubilant today, for You have washed our guilt away.  
O hear the glad new song we sing on this, the birth of Christ our King!

O Savior of our fallen race, the world will see Your radiant face;  
For You who came to us before will come again and all restore.  
Let songs of praise Your name adorn, O Christ, Redeemer, virgin-born,  
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia! Amen.

✠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . HYFRYDOL

**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 ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

✠ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✠ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) . . . . . J. Ronald Hickman

## HEED THE DIVINE SON'S WORD

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.**

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 *Judged By the Word of Christ* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♠HYMN OF CHRIST'S LIGHT: "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ..... DIX



1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the on - ly Light,  
2. Dark and cheer-less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa-nied by Thee;  
3. Vis - it, then, this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of Right-eous-ness, a - rise, Tri-umph o'er the shades of night;  
Joy - less is the day's re - turn Till Thy mer-cy's beams I see;  
fill me, Ra - dian - cy di-vine; scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.  
Till they in-ward light im-part, Glad my eyes, andwarm my heart.  
more and more Thy- self dis-play, shin-ing to the per - fect day.

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE:

Toccata on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" ..... Christopher Pardini

♠Indicates congregation standing

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