



Sunday November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF BELLA VISTA**

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A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2022 — 10:00 AM

First Sunday of Advent

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
bold type — please respond in unison.*



WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Prepare The Way, O Zion”

David Paxton

CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

We worship and adore you, Christ our King.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, and the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.”

“Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ
with all the faithful of every time and place:

With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,
we await the promised salvation of the Lord,
and look for the coming of the one
who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

***HYMN # 82** *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our
weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet
without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of
grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in
the time of need.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, remind us that you have formed us with your own hands, made us in your own image, and placed us in this world to be stewards of your good creation. Made for generous relationships, we have retreated into ourselves. Created for the purpose of making your goodness known, we allow lesser tasks to occupy our time. Forgive our failure to live in the way you made us to live. Renew within us the knowledge of your love so that we may live joyfully and gratefully, sharing what we have. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, and opens to us the way of eternal life.

(Moment of silence for personal confession.)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

With the coming of Christ, God has given us the gift of forgiveness, even seventy times seven. God reaches out to offer us new life, a new day, a chance to begin again — loved and beautiful, even as on the first day of creation. Believe the promise of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

(Please take this opportunity to “pass the peace” to those around you.)

*GLORIA PATRI

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dear Lord, in the silence of our hearts, the listening of our ears, and the wisdom of our minds, may the word become Word for us, in Christ’s name and by his power. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come
the mountain of the Lord’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they 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 any more.

5 O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 122

Bud Clark

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

1 I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

2 **Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

3 Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.

- 4 To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers.”
- 8 For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

ANTHEM *“The Coming Of The Lord”*

SECOND READING

Matthew 24:36-44

36 “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39 and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be

grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

SERMON

“Birth Pangs”

Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***HYMN #361** *“O Christ, The Great Foundation”* (vs. 1, 2, 4)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (From the Confession of 1967)

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this

community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We offer our individual gifts – our time, our talents, and our financial resources – to God; and those gifts become the church's

gifts. And then the church offers them to the world. So with generous hearts, let us offer our gifts to the world.

OFFERTORY

“An Advent Prayer”

Lani Smith

*DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Just as Elisha took up Elijah’s mantle, and the disciples took up the ministry of Jesus, their teacher, we present these gifts that through them the church may take up the mantle of Christ and proclaim his transformative Word to the world through acts of justice and love.
Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #363 *“Rejoice The Lord Is King”* (1, 2, 4)

*CHARGE & BLESSING

*GOING FORTH #35 *“Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty”* (v.1)

*POSTLUDE *“Exaltation”* Roger Wilson

