

GOOD MORNING! We welcome each of you to this service of worship and we are glad you are here. We invite you to fill out the Welcome card found in the pew rack and place the card in the offering plate, so we can welcome you further and start to get to know you better.

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Today (12/08)	9:30a	Second Sunday of Advent Sunday School
	10:30a	Worship Service — <i>Communion</i>
	11:30a	Congregational Meeting
Mon (12/09)	9:00a	Bulletin Information Due
	9:00a	Website Information Due
	6:30p	TACC Meeting
	7:00p	Stated Session Meeting
Wed (12/11)	9:00a	WW Meeting (Weight Watchers)
	9:30a	Bible Study
	6:00p	Christmas Gathering
	7:30p	Choir Rehearsal
Sun (12/15)		Third Sunday of Advent
	9:30a	Sunday School
	10:30a	Worship Service

Financial Update can be found on the bulletin board.

Congregational Meeting: Today, immediately following worship service, we will hold a congregational meeting to elect two new elders for the class of 2027. The candidates are: Ellen Watts (3-yr term) and Linda Volcek (second 3-yr term).

Christmas Gathering: On Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m., we will gather to enjoy our annual Christmas meal. The Fellowship Committee will provide Prime Rib and Ham. Please register on the sign-up sheet for your favorite vegetables, sides and desserts. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board and the deadline for registering is today, December 8, 2024.

Christmas Cookies: We will again ask our congregation to bake cookies for our home-bound members. The cookies need to be delivered to the church on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile activity, please register on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.

Pennies for Hunger: Don't forget to drop your pennies in the "Hunger" pail located in the Narthex.

Dollars-For-Missions: All loose dollar bills placed in the collection plates will be earmarked for mission work—divided between FPC Mission Team and a Salem Presbytery mission.

Blessing Box: Please continue to support the Blessing Box. It is being visited quite frequently and because of this we are in need of the following:

- ◆ Canned Vegetables
 - Green Beans
- ◆ Canned Pasta
- ◆ Canned Soup
- ◆ Canned Meat
 - Tuna, Chicken, Beef Stew, etc.
- ◆ Boxed Pasta
 - Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, etc.
- ◆ Dry Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Ramen Noodles
- ◆ Instant Potatoes, Pasta and Rice Mixes
- ◆ Other Non-perishable Foods



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. John Pruitt, Pastor

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Stan Stigall, Music Director

December 8, 2024 — Second Sunday of Advent

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Dee Barham and Priscilla Henderson

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.

All: *Jesus Christ, whose birth we await, calls our community to justice and leads us in the way of peace.*

One: Our community is forgiving. We call one another to honesty and humility and respond to each other with abundant grace.

All: *Our community values relationships. We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree, and strive to glorify God in everything we do.*

One: Our community longs for unity. We work together with other churches and organizations, and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

All: *Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world.*

(At this time, The Advent Candle will be lit.)

One: Let us pray:

All: *God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world and offer a vision of the lion and lamb lying down together. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*HYMN NO. 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of glory, we confess that we have not recognized you in our midst nor listened for your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. We are focused more on our own survival than on our mission in the world. We come to you today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. *(The prayer continues in a time of silent, personal confession.)*

Amen.

RESPONSE

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God speaks tenderly to us and assures us that our debt has been paid, our sins forgiven, our paths made straight. God's glory is waiting to burst into the midst of all who accept the good news. Surely our salvation is at hand. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Friends, believe the good news...

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share a sign of peace with others.)

ANTHEM

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

SERMON

"Rescue Stories"

Rev. John Pruitt

SENDING

***HYMN NO. 143**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

AFFIRMATION 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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Words of Invitation

The Prayer of Thanksgiving—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.

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of God's Gifts

The Communion Prayer

***HYMN NO. 146**

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

POSTLUDE

Serving Today (Dec 08—Communion)

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Sharp, Ellen Watts

Element Prep: Nancy Bolen, Nancy Sharp

Assisting Elders: Nancy Bolen, Mike Polinsky

Linda Volcek, Lynda Self

Serving Next Sunday (Dec 15)

Greeters/Ushers: Nancy Sharp, Ellen Watts

*You may stand in body or spirit.

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