



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Advent | Communion Sunday

December 1, 2024

10:50 a.m.

## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

**Welcome**

*Rev. Jennifer Johnson*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope**

*Carol & Scott Sanderson*

**Prelude**

*Max Jackson*

Come Now, Savior of The Nations

Helmut Walcha

## † Call to Worship

*Kim Whitman*

**Leader: From the flurry of holiday busyness, we come longing for peace.**

People: Yearning for lasting joy and hoping to find our rest in God.

**Leader: From full calendars and hectic schedules,**

People: We come to taste the Bread of Life,

**Leader: To drink the cup of blessing.**

People: To sing the songs of Advent hope.

**Leader: From the worry of our days,**

People: We come to be set free, be made new,

**All: And to follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.**

## † Hymn of Advent

#88 (1,2)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.

(Refrain)

## † Call to Confession

## † Prayer of Confession

Loving Lord, Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. We have been lukewarm disciples. We have lacked the zeal of John the Baptist. Instead of letting our voices cry out in the wilderness, our cries have been weak and halfhearted. Instead of proclaiming the gospel with conviction, we have shrugged and stammered. Instead of clothing ourselves in humility and faith, we have put on power and prestige. Instead of giving You the glory, we have puffed ourselves up with pride. Forgive us, O God. Transform us for authentic and wholehearted discipleship. In Jesus' name. Amen.

† Assurance of Pardon

† Response

#104 (3)

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.

In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

✠ We Listen to God's Word ✠

**Children's Message**

**Anthem**

*Chancel Choir*

Comfort, Comfort

arr. John Ferguson

"Comfort, comfort now my people, Tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near. Calling us to true repentance, since the kingdom now is here. Oh, the warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet Him, and the hills bow down to greet Him. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain! Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His whole reign! For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**The Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 40:1–5 (NRSV)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

L: The Word of the Lord.   **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 25** (tune: Winchester Old)To You, O Lord I Lift My Soul

To You, O Lord, I lift my soul, in You, O God, I trust.

Let vanity be put to shame and languish in the dust.

Make me to know Your paths, O God, and lead me in Your way.

To learn such saving truth my heart shall meditate each day.

The Lord is goodness, truth and love, God's path the saints have trod.

And children of the covenant still walk beside their God.

Be mindful of Your mercy, Lord, Your love from ages past.

Forgive the weakness of my youth and bring me home at last.

† **The Epistle Lesson**

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (NRSV)

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The word of the Lord.   **P: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon***Rev. Jennifer Johnson****Waiting . . . Wait, What?!***

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#362

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh.  
Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil;  
look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand;  
arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand!

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee!

† **Affirmation of Faith**

*Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering Acknowledgement** *Special Offering: Backpack Ministry*

### † **Doxology**

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
Who with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

### † **Prayer of Dedication**

#### ✠ **The Lord's Supper** ✠

#### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right . . . Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song  
and sing Your eternal praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and  
earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

. . . With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great  
joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery  
of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)**

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit . . . Through Christ, all  
glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit  
in the holy church, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; 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 Breaking of the Bread

## Communion of the People

## Prayer After Communion

✠ We Are Sent in God's Name ✠

## † Hymn of Sending

#82

### Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

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 every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

## Postlude

*Max Jackson*

### Come Now, Savior Of The Nations

J S Bach

## † Charge & Benediction

† *Standing if you are able.*

## SERVING TODAY

Head Ushers: *Greg & Geri Willis*

Liturgist: *Kim Whitman*

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ⇒ Sunday, December 1

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

**Family Night/Advent Kick-Off, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.**

### ⇒ Wednesday, December 4

**Open Chapel, 5:30 p.m.**

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### ⇒ Thursday, December 5

Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

### Advent Devotionals

You may pick up an Advent devotional and a magnet on the table in the Narthex.

### 2024 Christmas JOY Offering

We will receive the JOY Christmas offering during morning worship on Sundays 1, 8, 15 & 22. This offering is collected each year through the PCUSA and is divided between assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks and the Narthex. Thank you for your prayerful response to this special offering this year!

### Christmas Cookie Exchange

We are happy to announce that our cookie exchange is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 following Morning Worship. Please bring your cookies individually wrapped and/or in baggies. We look forward to this festive time of sharing our favorite cookies with one another. Rumor is that we will have "special" visitors who will delight the hearts of children of all ages. Questions, see Mary Patterson.





## All-Church Christmas Caroling

Warm up your voices and join us for a time of caroling Sunday, **December 15 beginning at 3 p.m.** We will meet at the Church, and we will travel in our vehicles to visit our shut-in's at their homes and share the joy of the Christmas songs we love to sing! We will fellowship at the Wheeler's home following the caroling.



## It's Time to Order Your Poinsettia for Christmas

If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas in memory or honor of someone, order forms are available in the Narthex or online at [fpcaky.org](http://fpcaky.org). The cost for each poinsettia is **\$15**. Please have your order forms in by **Sunday, December 15**. You may take your poinsettias home following the Christmas Eve service.

## Parents' Night Out

Parents, this night is for you. Parents' Night Out is **Friday, December 20, 5:30—8 p.m.** Come, drop off the kids here at Church and then go shopping, out to eat or just go home and rest! We have planned for fun activities for the kids. There will be crafts, snacks and a whole lot of fun. Take advantage of this opportunity as you prepare for Christmas. Questions, see Lee McCloud (606.331.1017).

## Christmas Card Exchange

### CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE



Thanks to Kim Whitman and the Membership Ministry Team for this fun idea. You may exchange Christmas cards with your church family by dropping

them off in their church mailbox. Kelly has provided a Christmas card list that is available in the Narthex.

# Oh Christmas Tea

Please join us for our  
First Annual Christmas Tea



Saturday  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 pm.

First Presbyterian Church  
1600 Winchester Ave  
Ashland, KY 41101

All ladies of the church are invited (grades K and older).  
RSVP by 12/8 in the Narthex or text Kelly: 606.923.7826

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*There is a Christmas Tea sign-up sheet  
available in the Narthex.*

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

### **Week ending November 28, 2024**

Chris Bush (Heather Shay's cousin)

Allyson Garnes (Pastor Bill & Nanette's great niece)

Kaylee McKnight (John & Kay Ferguson's great niece)

### **Week ending November 21, 2024**

Gunnell Rupert (Dave & Judy Eby's nephew)

Mike Hall (Geri Willis' brother)

### **Week ending November 14, 2024**

Gail Frazier (Nanette)

Trish Hall

Kate Hanni

Judy Lilly

Dr. Roger Potter

***Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.***

**Ongoing:** Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Dr. Matthew Lewis; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

**The Lantern:** Barry Barbour, Carolyn Graber

**Woodland Oaks:** Bob Miller

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
	*2nd term of service	

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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Contact Pastor Bill: 606.547.1802 or pastor@fpcaky.org