



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

John & Kay Ferguson

Prelude

Max Jackson

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

† Call to Worship

Kim Whitman

Leader: With steadfast love and growing faith,

People: We come as the people of Christ.

Leader: With prayers of hope and songs of joy,

People: We come to worship God, the eternal and ever-loving.

Leader: With thankful hearts and humble prayers,

People: We come to give God glory and praise.

**All: Here we are together as people of faith and hope to
celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. O come, O come,
Emmanuel!**

† Hymn of Praise

#88 (1,5,6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, Thou Key of David, come;
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Dayspring,
come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

There are many roads to choose; yet only one leads to the joy of life. O, God, we confess our desire to choose roads that lead to so many things that keep us from You. We are so easily distracted, tempted by paths that seem to lead to good things -- wealth, prosperity, health -- and yet they never satisfy. Keep us on the path that leads to You. Give us a desire for the things that are of You, that we know will bring us ultimate joy and to You, great glory. Thank You for never leaving us behind when we wander. Our joy remains in You. 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

Lord, Make Us Worthy

Natalie Sleeth

Blessed by His coming, touched by His birth, graced by His glory, here on the earth, fed by His wisdom, all who believe: Lord, make us worthy such gifts to receive. Spared by His mercy, healed by His skill, saved by His sorrow, bound by His will, raised by His power, all who believe: Lord, make us worthy such gifts to receive. Sent by His Father, humbly He came; master and Savior, Him we proclaim. All who have found Him now as before, offer Him honor and praise evermore. Led by His Spirit, claimed by His love, filled with His promise, Word from above, called to His service, all who believe: Lord, make us worthy, each of us worthy, Lord, make us worthy such blessings to receive. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2:1–11 (NRSV)

If then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death; even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God exalted Him even more highly and gave Him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

Psalm 24

#93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
 behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
 the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
 make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, I open wide my heart to Thee;
 here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Luke 1:39–49 (NRSV)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for He has looked with favor on the lowly state of His servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name;

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ! **P: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

"Here is Joy!"

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.

Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: Clean Start

† **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**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#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.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Prepare The Way, O Zion

Winston Cassler

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Kelly Hanni* | Liturgist: *Kim Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 95

General Offering: \$1,014.00

Cookie Exchange: \$245.00

JOY Offering: \$310.00

Organ Repair: \$26.00

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$230.00

Poinsettias: \$120.00

Online Offering: \$225.00

Total Offering: \$2,170.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

⇒ **Sunday, December 15**

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m. (on break until January 5)

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

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

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Christmas Caroling, 3 p.m.

⇒ **Monday, December 16**

Sew Blessed Christmas Party, 5:30 p.m./Sonora Mexican Grill

⇒ **Wednesday, December 18**

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

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

⇒ **Friday, December 20**

Parent's Night Out, 5:30 p.m.

Poinsettias Orders Due Today



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. The cost for each poinsettia is **\$15**. **Please have your order forms in TODAY.** You

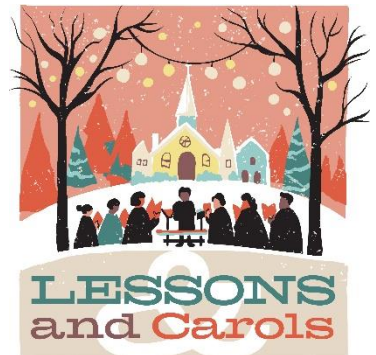
may take your poinsettias home following the Christmas Eve service.

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).

Lessons and Carols

Join us on **Sunday, December 22** during Morning Worship for a service of scripture and song as the choir presents our annual Lessons and Carols beginning at **10:50 a.m.** This is a service that inspires our hearts to prepare for the birth of Jesus. What a wonderful way to begin Christmas week!



The Longest Night Service

The Longest Night Service is **Sunday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. *The Longest Night Service* (also called *Blue Christmas Service*) acknowledges the loss, sadness, and grief many of us struggle with during the holidays. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." The service is about 30 minutes long. For questions about it, please ask Jennifer Johnson.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us for an evening of candle lighting and communion. We will gather **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 and 11:30 p.m.** for a time of worship and celebration as we remember the birth of Jesus. Invite your friends and family to join us.



2024 Christmas JOY Offering

We will receive the JOY Christmas offering during morning worship all Sundays in December. 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 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.

Mitten Tree

We are, again, providing a mitten tree during the Advent/Christmas season. All winter donations (mittens, socks, scarves and gloves) will be given to the Ashland Schools Family Resource Center. Thank you for your wonderful response in the past. Let's do even better this year!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending December 12, 2024

Kathleen Filkins

Jimmy Hall

Trish Hall

The family of Brenda Presley (David Murphy's aunt)

Adrianna Riggs (traveling to India)

College Students/Finals

Geri Willis

Week ending December 5, 2024

Gail Frazier (Nanette)

Kate Hanni

Dr. Roger Potter

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)

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

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

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: 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)



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	()	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ (%, to us a) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 %, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ (,

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4.

He will reign on David's - 8 (^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$,

establishing and upholding it with ! ?) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ (5 > 5 (. *Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV*

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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