



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

December 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)

RINGING OF THE BELL

Bo Morton and Lindley Ramsey

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Stewart Smith

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Music: Plainsong, Arranged by David Lan

Isaac Thomas, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Amanda McDonald

Leader: To stand watch over a sick child or a rising loaf of bread

People: Calls for alert senses and sensitivities.

Leader: Standing watch demands an awareness of surroundings, for even when it seems as though there is nothing to watch for, you must be ready for anything.

People: Standing watch builds anticipation.

Leader: In this season of Advent, we seek to watch with eagerness for the promised but always surprising arrival of Christ.

People: God comes to be with us, ready or not.

Leader: May our worship this morning and in this season be times of looking forward with perceptive and receptive watchfulness.

Unison: Let us worship the living and loving God!

*HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Rowland H. Prichard

Glory to God

**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Leader: Today is the First Sunday of Advent.

People: We enter this season with anticipation and expectation.

Leader: Jesus said, "The Bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

People: Give us this bread always.

Leader: The name Bethlehem means "house of bread". We light the first candle of our Advent Wreath remembering that Jesus, the living bread from heaven, came to offer himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

People: Jesus, bread of heaven, feed us now and forever.

Leader: Let us pray,

Unison: Almighty God, with mighty acts of power, You set Your people free from slavery and led them through the wilderness to the promised land. Even though they complained against You, You graciously fed them with manna, bread from heaven. In grace and mercy, You sent Your Son Jesus Christ to set us free from our slavery to sin. In Him, we have forgiveness and peace. Bread of Heaven, feed us now and forever! Amen.

Ted Belden and
Melissa, Randy, Hayden, Harper,
Hadley, and Hannah Werner

***ADVENT CANDLE SONG**

Light a Candle Bright and Tall
Words by David Wood; Music by Conrad Kocher



Light a — can - die bright and tall, for the Hope with - in our world.
Hope that heard the a - ges' call, as the stars and plan - ets whirled.
Shine with - in our hearts to-day; come, O Hope, to us we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*seated, unison*)

Jeffrey Kerst

Holy God, our very waiting in Advent is itself a confession. If we are waiting for Emmanuel, we are not yet with You. If we are waiting for Jesus, we need a Savior. If we are waiting for a Messiah, the proud are still powerful, the mighty are still exalted, the hungry stand unheard at the door. If we are waiting for Your Incarnation in human form, we have not seen You in our sister, we have not loved You in our brother, we have not served You in our neighbor. In this time of great meaning, in the stillness of Advent love and light, hear our deepest confession. Heal us and make us whole through the good tidings of Your presence in our lives

(*silent confession*) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE (SOLO)

Recitative for Bass: *For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth* Dennis Brewer, bass
Music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) from *The Messiah* Xiao Yang, piano

“For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.”—Isaiah 60:2-3

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also, with you.

CHILDREN’S SONG

O Come, Little Children (use screens or bulletin)
Words and Music by Johann A. P. Schultz (1747-1800)

**O come, little children, O come one and all. O come, to the manger in Bethlehem’s stall,
Sing glory to God in the heavens above, and thank him for Jesus, the proof of God’s love.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Stewart Smith

ANTHEM

Air for Bass: *The People That Walked in Darkness* Dennis Brewer, bass
Music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) from *The Messiah* Xiao Yang, piano

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.”—Isaiah 9:2

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Stewart Smith

SCRIPTURE READING

John 6:25-35; 47-51

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." ³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

SERMON

Food for the Soul, Food that Endures

Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Isaac Thomas

OFFERTORY

St. Ita's Vision

Xiao Yang, piano

Music by Samuel Barber (1910-1981)

*RESPONSE #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Glory to God

Words by Georg Weissel; Music from *Musica Sacra, circa 1778*

**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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

COMMUNION 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 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.

COMMUNION HYMN #522*I Am the Bread of Life*

Glory to God

*The choir sings the verses, and the congregation joins on the refrain.***THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND SHARING OF CUP**

There will be three communion stations at the front with a plate of bread and gluten free crackers at each, as well as a clay goblet of grape juice. There will be a **dedicated Gluten Free station close to the pulpit side**. We will be taking communion fully by intinction. (After you receive the elements, please use this time prayerfully and reflectively.)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

#86 The People Who Walked in Darkness

#92 While We Are Waiting, Come

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**SENDING****LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Kristi Button

***HYMN #88** (verses 1, 2, 4)*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Glory to God

Words: Traditional Latin Prose, Pre-9th Century; Music: Plainsong

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Stewart Smith

POSTLUDE*Raise the Lord with the Drums and Cymbals*

Xiao Yang, organ

Music by Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

Participants

Greeters – David Rogers and Don Steinkraus

Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas

Choral Interns - Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Isabelle Pennick, Verna Labitad, and Will Trotter-Wright

Audio/Visual Team - Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker

Worship Band: Rob Button, Dennis Brewer, Don Steinkraus, Jeffrey Kerst

Director of Christian Education - Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries - Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator – Lee Pendley

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All scriptures from NRSV.