



FIRST WORSHIP – RELEVANT FAITH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 Calvin St, Fayetteville, AR ● 479-442-4411 ● www.fupcfay.org

December 1, 2024

9:00 a.m

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

A seed in the ground.

A flame in the darkness.

A hand outstretched.

A child in the womb.

Hope, just like rising bread, starts small and overtakes us,

Stretching the limits of what we know.

PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Traditional French Carol

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, thou branch of Jesse's stem,
unto thine own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits (verses 1, 2, 5)

Words and Music by Marty Haugen

**For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly, my hope is in you.
O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
your radiance shines in all who look to you;
come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.**

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly, my hope is in you.
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
our thirty hearts are yearning for your word;
come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly, my hope is in you.
Come let us bow before the God who made us;
let every heart be opened to the Lord,
for we are all the people of God's hand.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.

Light a Candle Bright and Tall (tune to "For the Beauty of the Earth")

Words by David Wood; Music by Conrad Kocher

**Light a candle bright and tall, for the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call, as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today; come, O Hope, to us we pray.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

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.’”³² Then 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.”³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”³⁵ Jesus 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.”

MESSAGE

Food for the Soul, Food that Endures

Rev. Stewart Smith

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

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.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SONG

What Child is This?

Words by William C. Dix; English Ballad

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall piece him through, the cross be home for me, for you;
hail, hail for Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As we sing the final song, we ask that you leave the sanctuary singing together into The Gathering Place. We will use this time for fellowship and to pass the Peace of Christ after the service.

BENEDICTION SONG

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child
African-American Spiritual

**Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:
New life, new hope, new joy he brings.
Listen to the angels sing: "Glory, glory, glory to the new-born king!"**

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PARTICIPANTS

Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Stewart Smith

Minister of Music/CRE
Isaac Thomas

Director of Christian Education
Kristi Button

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Amanda McDonald

Membership Coordinator
Amy McCann

Childcare Coordinator
Lee Pendley

Choral Interns
Ceci Allen
Cole Jackson
Jeffrey Kerst
Isabelle Pennick
Verna Labitad
Will Trotter-Wright

First Worship Band
Rob Button, guitar/vocals
Jeffrey Kerst, acoustic guitar
Isabelle Pennick, percussion
Don Steinkraus, bass guitar
Will Sulliban, percussion
Isaac Thomas, piano/keyboard

Audio/Visual Team
Christopher Verdery, coordinator
Connor Button, audio
Drew Parker, video
Greg Merrell, video