

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Isaiah 11)*

One: The prophet Isaiah said, "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

All: The promised Messiah was long in coming. But come he did.

One: And still he comes to us, even now.

All: So rejoice and be glad, for God is with us. Let us worship the Lord our God.

OPENING HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" GtG 93

One: Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;

All: behold, the King of glory waits;

One: the King of kings is drawing near;

All: the Savior of the world is here.

One: Fling wide the portals of your heart;

**All: make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

One: Redeemer, come!

**All: I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We yearn for your coming, O Lord, then shun you when you appear. We ask for your guidance, but then ignore it when offered. We look to you for help and protection, then forget you when the crisis is over. Forgive us, gracious Lord. Instill within us an eager desire to receive you into our lives. Come to us and transform us as your people. Remake us in the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from I John 4 & Luke 2)*

One: “In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent God's only Son into the world so that we might live through him.”
All: **This is indeed “good news of great joy for all the people.”**
One: So rejoice and be glad, for in Jesus Christ we are loved, in Jesus Christ we are accepted, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
All: **“Glory to God in the highest heaven!”**

THE PEACE

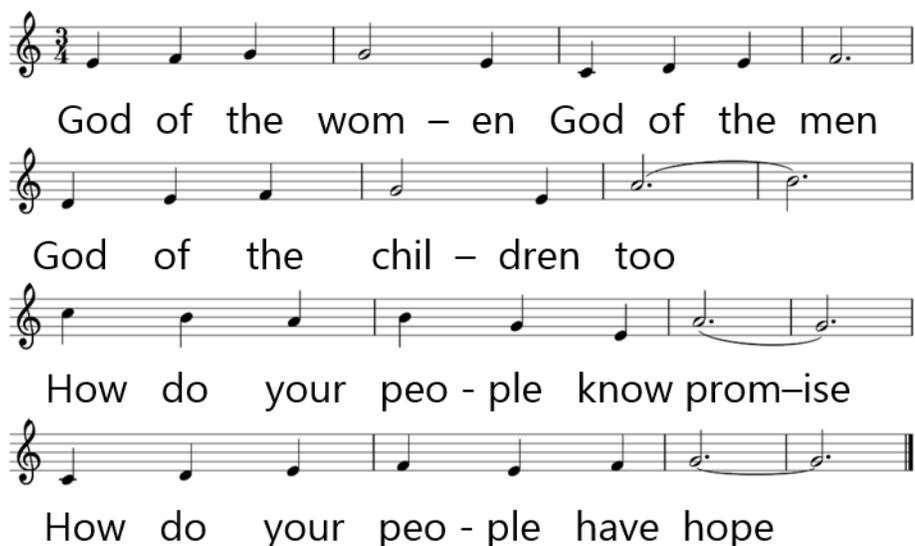
One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 1:1-16

THE ADVENT WREATH: “Mothers of Messiah”

(“Mothers of Messiah” by Tracy Sybesma. From *Reformed Worship 85* © September 2007
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God of the wom - en God of the men
God of the chil - dren too
How do your peo - ple know prom - ise
How do your peo - ple have hope

*ROEDER (God of the Sparrow), Tune by Carl Schalk.
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Of Trees and Leaves” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Contemporary*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
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 living 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.**

(The Apostles' Creed)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Coming God...
People: ...renew our hope.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

In gratitude we celebrate the gift of you, O Lord. And thank you for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. In humility we offer ourselves. Use the gifts we offer to be part of what you are doing in the world even now; and use us to proclaim your glory and share your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

HYMN “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” GtG 347 (*Verses 1 & 2*)

1. **Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.**

2. **King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.**

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SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

(The prayer continues...)

The Lord’s Prayer (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please hold the bread so that we might partake of it together, to remind us of our participation in this sacrament as a community. Please drink the cup as you are served, reminding us of our individual participation in this sacrament and our personal commitment to our Lord.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” GtG 88 (*Verses 1, 6, & 7*)

- 1. 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.**

- 6. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

- 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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