

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

1st SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 80)*

- One: "Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!"
All: **"Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved."**
One: With expectancy we come to listen, to give, to invest ourselves in this time of worship.
All: **In anticipation of God's coming to us, let us come to worship the Lord.**

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

1. **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.**
2. **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.**
3. **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.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dear God, we sing of joy at your coming and inviting you into our hearts. But our lives show a different truth. We are so busy we have no time for you. Our schedules do not allow for your intrusion in our lives. Too often our joy is only superficial, founded on things that are fleeting and unimportant. But you continue to come to us, and invite us to receive you in our hearts. Forgive us when we turn

you away. Help us to hear your call and invitation. Enable us to release our lives to your presence and transforming power. Open us up to your coming and new life. For we ask this in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Luke 2)*

One: In this is love, that God gives us the gift of Jesus Christ to remind us of the truth of Immanuel: that God is with us.

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF HOPE

One: Advent means ‘coming’. The season we have hoped for has come. The one we had hoped for has come. And we have a certain hope, for the promises of God are sure. So we live by our hope in the one who came long ago, the one who comes to us still, the one who will come again.

All: **We all have hopes and dreams and expectations in life. With the birth of the Christ-child, the angels proclaim the good news that this holy infant is the only hope we need in life: that in him all our needs are met, all our wishes known, all our hopes fulfilled.**

One: So we light the first candle to remind us of the hope we have in Christ. May his hope shine in us always.

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
(Romans 15:13)

Let us pray.

Unison: **Dear God, we rejoice in the firm hope we have grounded in Christ. May we be guided and encouraged by that hope. And may we**

always look forward with eager anticipation to Christ's coming to us each and every day. Amen.

Sing: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" GtG 121 (*Verse 1*)

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

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SCRIPTURE READINGS John 1:1-3,10-14
I Corinthians 11:23-26
Matthew 24 (selected)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "Point of Contact" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***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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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*The Apostles' Creed - 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.

(Today's translation of the Apostles' Creed is reprinted by permission from Book of Common Worship, copyright 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Gracious Lord...
All: ...come to us in your mercy.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

Dear God, we thank you for your love made known to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for your presence made known to us through the Holy Spirit. May we have hope in you always, trusting in your constant advents in our lives. Bless us as we seek to serve you in all that we do. Receive the gifts we offer, and use them, and us, to further the coming of your kingdom here on earth. For it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

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 (Traditional)

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(Please partake of each element as you are served, celebrating how Christ comes to you.)

Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" GtG 82

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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