

First Presbyterian Church

December 5, 2021 • 10:30 a.m.



Embodying Christ's inclusive love through heart, mind, and service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
December 5, 2021 • Second Sunday of Advent

(For the sake of brevity, we occasionally sing selected verses of hymns.)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

The voice of one cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord!

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him.

In the days to come, the wolf shall live with the lamb, the calf and the lion together,

And a little child shall lead them.

Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

We look for the day when God's peace and justice blanket all of creation.

Come, Harbinger of Peace, to a world that longs for your goodness.

Hymn 77

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God's new creation shall come.

Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.

The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace,

For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child.

Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth; the briar and the thorn tree grow wild,

God, bring to fruition your will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or destroy,

That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land and your people shall go forth in joy.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of abounding grace, we confess that we fall short of being the people you created us to be. You call us to help usher in your peaceable realm, but we do not listen. You command us to do no harm to others, but we continue to inflict wounds and harbor grudges. Have mercy on us, Lord. Help us to amend our ways, that we might show forth your gentleness and goodwill to all people; in the name of the coming Messiah we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The Peace of Christ

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Sung Response

He Came Down

(Glory to God, 137)

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;

He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

Time with the Children

Anthem *Et in Terra Pax (And on Earth, Peace)* Purifoy

Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace.

Gloria in excelsis! Glory to God in the highest!

And suddenly with the angel there was a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.'

Et in terra pax, and on earth, peace.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-9

Sermon *A Season of Surprises:
Lions and Tigers and ... Lambs* Sharon Youngs

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's realm. We believe that God is at work in our world, turning hopeless and evil situations into good. We believe in the power of peace; that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end, and that tyranny and oppression will not last forever. One day all tears will be wiped away, and the lamb will lie down with the lion. True peace and reconciliation are assured and guaranteed. This is our faith, and this is our hope.

Call to Prayer *While We Are Waiting, Come* (Glory to God, 92)
(verse 1)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (ecumenical)

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.

Hymn 79 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;

The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

As all the world in wonder echoes "shalom."

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain

Charge and Blessing

Sung Response

People, Look East

(Glory to God, 105)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Postlude



The poinsettias for the season have been given in part by Bill & Debbie Bostick, who wish to dedicate them today to the glory of God and to the joys given to us by our sons.

Announcements

—The affirmation of faith today is adapted from *Third World Solidarity Day*, a 1987 publication of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

—Thank you to Alex, Julia, and Jack Cantrell for lighting the Advent wreath candles this morning.

—Today we receive a quarterly offering for our Hunger Fund. Please make your gifts payable to FPC and put “hunger” on the memo line. You can also pay online using the QR code below.

—The youth group will gather in the fellowship hall from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. this evening to pack groceries for the Welcome Table, as well as eat pizza and play some games.

—Looking ahead:

- **Dec. 14: Service of Memory and Hope**, with music by John Purifoy, Steve Boyce, and Anna Thomas, and reflection by Emily Anderson, pastor of New Providence Presbyterian Church (Maryville).
- **Dec. 19: Lessons and Carols** during regular worship, along with ordination and installation of elders.
- **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service**, 7:00 p.m. (in person and virtual)

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

P.O. Box 6106 ❖ Oak Ridge, TN 37831 ❖ (865) 483-1318

❖ fpcor.org ❖ on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, TN

Church office open 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music Peggy Hinkle, Organist Devin Earhart, Technical Assistant Lee Robinson, Children & Youth Coordinator Adrienne Walker, Office Manager

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPC. You can mail your financial contribution to FPC (address above) or give online using the QR code here or via the link on fpcor.org.

