

First Presbyterian Church

December 12, 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 12, 2021 • Third 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 Candles

Mary sings, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
For the Mighty One has done great things for me."

Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and joy. We rejoice!
God lifts up the lowly, releases the captives, and brings sight to the blind.
We rejoice in God's justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
(verses 1, 2, and 4)

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing;
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls to shatter all hatred and violence.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, you promise to do great things for us, yet we do not trust you. You extend your mercy to us, yet we doubt that it is enough to save us. You lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things, and yet we still hesitate to follow you. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to truly trust your promises, that we might step out in faith to demonstrate your grace to others; in the name of the coming Christ child 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 joy; he came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

Time with the Children

Anthem *No Wind at the Window* (Glory to God, 101)

Scripture Reading Luke 1:39-45

Sermon *A Season of Surprises:
A Leap of Joy* 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 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
(verses 1 and 2)

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.*

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 Lou Dunlap who wishes to dedicate them today to the glory of God and in memory of her husband Julian on their sixty-first wedding anniversary.



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 our youth for lighting the Advent wreath candles this morning, and to Judy Greeson for serving as liturgist.

—Our **Service of Memory and Hope is this Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 p.m.**, with music by John Purifoy, Steve Boyce, and Anna Thomas, and reflection by Emily Anderson, pastor of New Providence Presbyterian Church (Maryville).

—Next Sunday, Dec. 19, our regular worship service will be **Lessons and Carols**, along with ordination and installation of elders. Our **annual Cookie Exchange** will follow worship (COVID-style). Here are details:

- Everyone is invited to bake (or secure) a batch of their favorite Christmas cookies.
- Package your cookies in sandwich bags (2-3 cookies per bag).
- Be sure to label each bag with the name of the cookies and whether they contain items that are problematic for some folks (e.g., nuts, peanut butter, etc.) or are gluten-free.
- That Sunday morning, Congregational Care & Welcome Committee (CC&W) members will have take-home bags ready for you to fill as you leave after worship.

If you are not worshipping in person that day, you are invited to drive by the church to pick up cookies until noon. Of course, **this works best if there are plenty of cookies!** If you would like to bake a batch and drop them off before the 19th, just let us know in the church office (483-1318).

Also: CC&W members are preparing gifts and cookie bags for our homebound members. Can you help out committee folks and volunteer to deliver goodies to these beloved members? Contact Mimi Tilley (604-1312) or Candice Strickler (256-3986). Thanks!

—**Please send in year-end contributions before Friday, Dec. 31.** Final contributions for the year must be received by Dec. 31, so please allow time for postal delays if you are mailing a check. Also, if you send in a contribution early for 2022 in order to deduct it on this year’s taxes, please note “2022 pledge” on the memo line. Thank you for your faithful giving

—**Looking ahead: 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.

