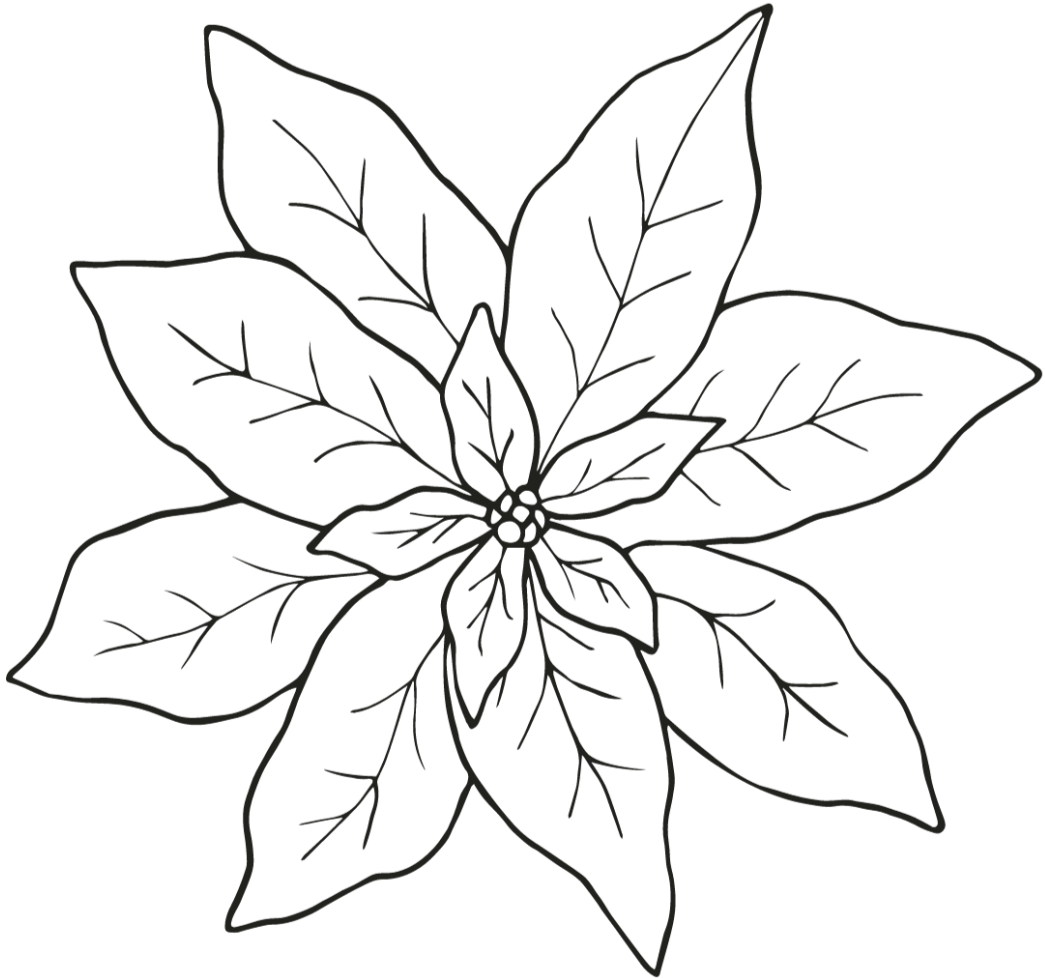


First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



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 10, 2023 • Second Sunday of Advent

**Please stand, in body or in spirit.*

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

People Look East

(hymn 105, verse 2)

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candle**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low.

Then the glory of God shall be revealed and all people shall see it together,

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1, 6, and 7)

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent 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 Grace**

***The Peace of Christ**

Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a halfhearted peace,
but the peace of God in Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

***Sung Response** *(from hymn 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.***

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

Anthem

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

(hymn 138)

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:21-26

Sermon

*What Won't Wait:
Making Things Right*

Sharon Youngs

Hymn 103

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace
(verse 1, choir)*

***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 *(hymn 654)*

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.***

Prayers of the People with 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.

Moment for Mission

***Hymn 753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

***Charge and Blessing**

***Sung Response**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

(hymn 132, verse 2)

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!***

Election of Elders

Postlude



*The poinsettias for the season have been given in part by
Bill and Debbie Bostick, who wish to dedicate them to the glory of God
and in gratitude for their children and 50 years of marriage.*



Announcements

—Thank you to Julia Cantrell for serving as liturgist, and to Steve Boyce for sharing his vocal gift with us this morning.

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

—The Session has called a meeting of the congregation this morning, immediately following worship, for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2026 and fill two unexpired terms.

—This Thursday, Dec. 14, is our Welcome Table dinner, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., in the fellowship hall. All are invited!

—We are in for a treat – figuratively and literally – on Dec. 17! The choir will lead us in Lessons and Carols during the worship service. Afterward, you are invited to bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share for FPCOR’s cookie exchange and cider festivity, which will take place in the fellowship hall immediately following worship. Please bag two or three cookies together and drop them off in the fellowship hall before the service. If the cookies contain nuts and/or are gluten free, indicate that on the bag. If you need small bags to package cookies, talk with Patty Barlow after the service.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 19: Service of Memory and Hope

Dec. 24: morning worship at 10:30 a.m.; candlelight and Communion service at 7:00 p.m.

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

❖ On Instagram [@firstpresbyterianchurchor](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterianchurchor) ❖

Sharon Youngs, Pastor Anna Thomas, Director of Music

Peggy Hinkle, Organist Madison Green, Office Manager

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of FPCOR.

You can mail your regular financial contribution to FPCOR (P.O. Box above)

or give online using the QR code to the right or via the link on fpcor.org.

