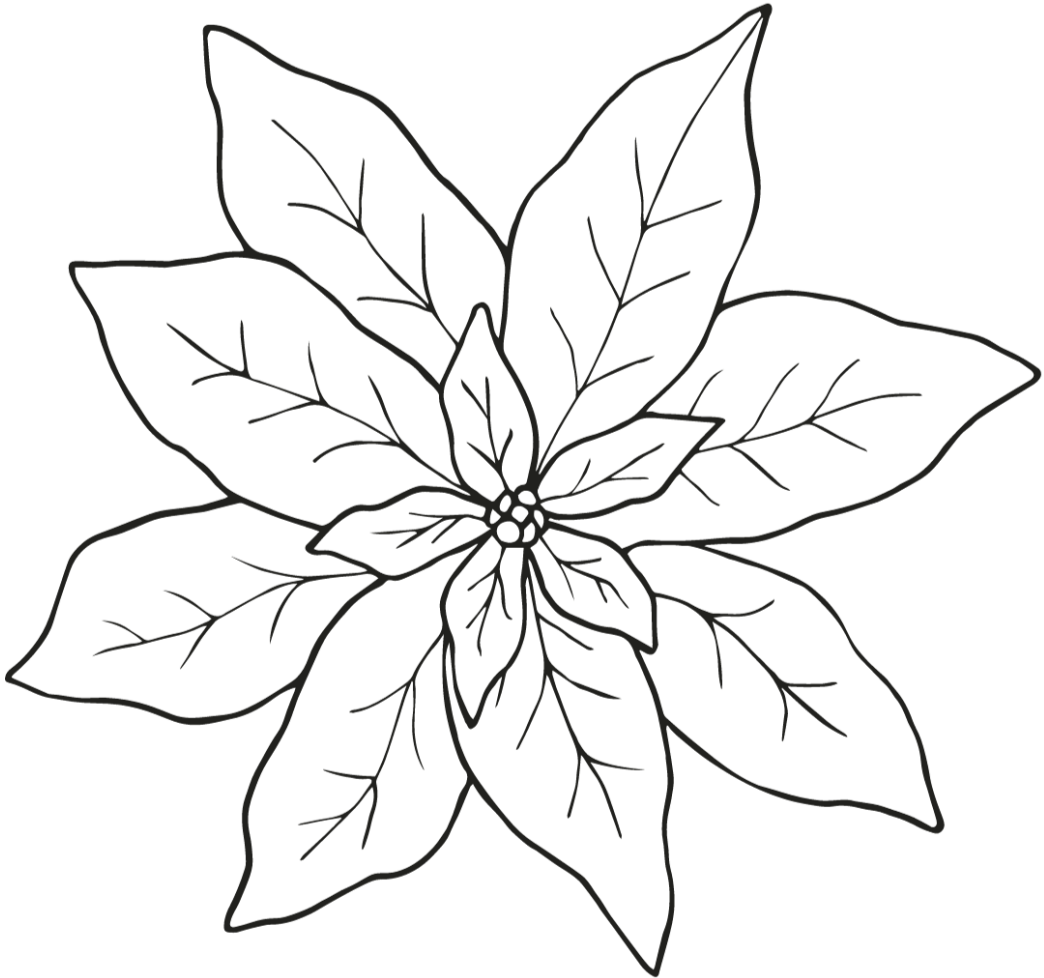


First Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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 3, 2023 • First Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude

Welcome

Introit

People Look East

(hymn 105, verse 1)

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 guest, is on the way.

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

The day is coming when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the God as the waters cover the sea.

Today we light the candle of hope. Though the world seems dark and cold, we know that the light of the Christ child is coming.

***We await the coming of the Prince of Peace,
who will reign with compassion and justice.***

***Hymn 106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

(a moment for silent confession)

God of creation, you fashioned a world of wonder and possibility and declared it to be good. And yet, we confess that this world is no longer as you intended it to be. We have betrayed our calling to tend and to keep it. Creation groans as sea levels rise and forests are destroyed, and we are running out of time to make it better. Forgive us, we pray. Wake us from our slumber and stir us to action, that we might enact hope in a culture of despair; in the name of the coming Prince of Peace. 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 hope:
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.***

Anthem *Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old* (hymn 77)

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-9

Sermon *What Won't Wait:
Hope From Despair* Sharon Youngs

Hymn 713 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal God, holy and mighty ... of every time and place,
we join our voices in unending praise:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your
glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the
Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

We give you thanks for Jesus, who lived among us Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord of light and darkness ... all glory and honor are yours, Holy God, now and forever.
Amen.

***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

Prayer after Communion

***Holy One, we thank you for feeding us at this table. May the nourishment we
have received strengthen us in every way, so that we may be faithful in our
response to your love, now and always. Amen.***

Moment for Mission

***Hymn 100**

Canticle of the Turning

***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!***

Postlude



*The poinsettias for the season have been given in part by
Richard Ward and Susan Sharp, who wish to dedicate them to the glory of God.*



Announcements

—Thank you to Judy Greeson for serving as our liturgist this morning.

—The Session has called a meeting of the congregation today, immediately following worship, for the purpose of changing the bylaws to reduce the number of elders who serve on Session. (Another meeting has been called for Dec. 10, for the purpose of electing elders to the class of 2026 and fill unexpired terms.)

—The community “Messiah” Sing-along will be this afternoon, 3:00 p.m., in the sanctuary.

—A reminder that Angel Tree gifts need to be returned no later than next Sunday.

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 14: Welcome Table

Dec. 17: Lessons and Carols; annual cookie exchange

Dec. 19: Service of Memory and Hope

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

First Presbyterian Church—A PC(USA) Congregation

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❖ 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

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