



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Advent | Communion Sunday

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December 7, 2025

10:50 a.m.

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## ✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

**Welcome**

*Rev. Bill Pollack*

**Advent Candle Lighting**

*Andrew & Donna Jones*

**Prelude**

*Max Jackson*

Come, Now, Savior of Mankind

J S Bach

## † Call to Worship

*Jan Holbrook*

Leader: From the flurry of holiday busyness,

**People: We come longing for peace,**

Leader: Yearning for lasting joy,

**People: Hoping to find our rest in God.**

Leader: From full calendars and hectic schedules,

**People: We come to taste the Bread of Life,**

Leader: Drink the cup of blessing,

**People: Sing the songs of Advent hope.**

Leader: From the worry of our days,

**People: We come to be set free, to be made new.**

**All: To follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.**

**Amen!**

## † Hymn of Advent

#88 (1,2,3,4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

O come, Thou Root of Jesse,  
free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell Thy people save  
and give them victory o'er the grave. [Refrain]

### † Call to Confession

### † Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we long for and need the presence of Christ in our lives. We long for a holy visitation but confess that we are too distracted to notice when it arrives. We long for peace but confess that we will not be still long enough to greet it. We long for the joy of new babies and angelic choirs but confess that we are too frantic to stop and look and listen. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our misplaced priorities that crowd You out of our Advent worship and our lives. Renew in us a desire for You above all else. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

### † Assurance of Pardon

### † Response

#104 (2)

#### O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?

Love caused Your incarnation; love brought You down to me;  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

#### ✠ We Listen to God's Word ✠

### Children's Message

#### Anthem

*Chancel Choir*

#### Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Puer nobis Nascitur | Arr. Mark Schweizer

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest Thy virgin birth. Let every age adoring fall, such birth befits the God of all. Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit Thou art still. The Word of God in flesh arrayed the promised fruit to man displayed. →

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light, where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene. All praise eternal Son, to Thee, whose Advent sets Thy people free, with whom the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost forever more.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **The Epistle Lesson:** Colossians 1:15–20 (NRSV)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, <sup>16</sup> for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross.

L: The Word of the Lord. P: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 66**

#54

#### Make a Joyful Noise to God!

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings Your praise!  
Great Your wonders here displayed,  
unexcelled throughout our days.  
Glorious is Your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:  
walked the chosen through the sea,  
brought their enemies to dust.

Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!  
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.  
When our life's sure end shall come,  
bring us to Your heavenly home.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** Luke 2:25–35 (NRSV)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Master, now You are dismissing Your servant in peace, according to Your word, <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen Your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And the Child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, "This Child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!     P: **Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### *A Cradle, A Cross and, A Crown*

### ✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

#### † Hymn of Response

#82

#### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

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.

#### † Affirmation of Faith

*Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of  
heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

→

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

**Offering Acknowledgement**     *Special Offering: Backpack Ministry*

### **† Doxology**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

All praise to You, eternal Son whose advent has our freedom won.  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

### **† Prayer of Dedication**

**✦ The Lord's Supper ✦**

**Invitation to the Lord's Table**

**Great Thanksgiving**

**L: The Lord be with you.**

**P: And also with you.**

**L: Lift up your hearts.**

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

**L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right . . . Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and sing Your eternal praise:

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

. . . With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)**

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit . . . Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer (sins)**

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

*(As you receive the bread and cup this morning please eat the piece of bread individually and retain the cup until all have received it so that we may take it together.)*

**Prayer After Communion**

**✠ We Are Sent in God's Name ✠**

**† Hymn of Sending**

**#109**

**Blest Be the God of Israel**

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;  
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

God, from the house of David a Child of grace has given;  
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.  
Before Him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,  
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

## Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork

## † Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

## IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### ↪ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (K–4<sup>th</sup> grade), 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Group (5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade), 9:30 a.m.

**Cassie & Michael's Wedding Shower, Noon**

### ↪ MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

**Session meeting, 5:30 p.m.**

### ↪ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Tai Chi, 5 p.m. | Zumba Class, 5 p.m.

### ↪ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Handbell Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

### ↪ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

**Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.**

**Horizon's Bible Study, 5:15 p.m.**

### ↪ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Zumba Class, 9:30 a.m. | Tai Chi, 11 a.m.



**Children's Christmas Program  
December 14  
During Morning Worship**

**❄ Mitten Tree Collection**

We are collecting gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves for the Ashland Family Resource Center. Your contributions will greatly benefit those in need within our community during the colder months. The mitten tree is in the Narthex.

**❄ Christmas Card Exchange**

You may exchange Christmas cards with your church family by dropping them off in their church mailbox. Kelly has provided a Christmas card list; it is available in the Narthex.

**❄ 2025 Christmas JOY Offering**

We will receive the JOY Christmas offering during morning worship on **Sundays 7, 14 & 21**. This offering is collected each year through the PCUSA and is divided between assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools.

**❄ Christmas Cookie Exchange**

The cookie exchange is scheduled for **Sunday, December 14** following worship. Please bring your cookies individually wrapped and/or in baggies. We look forward to this festive time of sharing our favorite cookies with one another. Rumor is that we will have "special" visitors. We hope you can join us.

### **☼ It's Time to Order Your Poinsettia for Christmas**

If you would like to order a poinsettia for Christmas in memory or honor of someone, order forms are available in the Narthex or online at [fpca.org](http://fpca.org). The cost for each poinsettia is **\$15**. Please have your order forms in by **Wednesday, December 17.**

### **☼ Parents' Night Out**

Parents, this night is for you. **Parents' Night Out is Friday, December 19, 5:30—8 p.m.** Come, drop off the kids here at Church and then go shopping, out to eat or just go home and rest! We have planned for fun activities for the kids (ages birth –4th grade. There will be crafts, snacks and a whole lot of fun. Questions, see Lee McCloud (606.331.1017).

### **☼ Youth Lock-In**

We're excited to invite all youth in grades 5th through 12th to our upcoming Lock-In event! Join us for a day of fun on Friday, **December 19, from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.** We'll have a variety of activities planned to ensure everyone has a great time. Questions, see Kelly Hanni.

### **☼ Lessons and Carols**

Join us on **Sunday, December 21** during Morning Worship for a service of scripture and song as the choir presents our annual Lessons and Carols beginning at **10:50 a.m.** This is a service that inspires our hearts to prepare for the birth of Jesus. This is a wonderful way to begin Christmas week!

### **☼ All-Church Christmas Caroling**

Warm up your voices and join us for a time of caroling **Sunday, December 21 beginning at 3 p.m.** We will meet at the church, and we will travel in our vehicles to visit our shut-ins at their homes and share the joy of the Christmas songs we love to sing! We will fellowship at the Wheeler's home following the caroling.

### **☼ Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

The tradition continues with another evening of candle lighting and Communion. We will gather on **Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30 and 11:30 p.m.** for a time of worship and celebration as we remember the birth of Jesus.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Week ending December 4, 2025

Christina Columber (Greg & Geri Willis)

Khyler Kingery (Ashton Wheeler)

Paul Layman

Tatiana Kennedy Schlossberg, granddaughter of JFK (David Murphy)

### Week ending November 28, 2025

Elsie Clark

Nancy Payne

Sebastian (Darrell Smith)

Pete Wonn

### Week ending November 20, 2025

Tyler & Courtney Adkins Family on the loss of their son  
(Ashton Wheeler's cousin)

Family of Grace Atwell (Trish Hall's sister)

Family of Sharon Lawson (Susan Martell)

Jackie Murray (Lee Hall's mother)

Roger Potter

**Ongoing:** Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Keith McClelland; Kenny McGill; Bob Miller; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

**Kingsbrook Care Center:** Barry Barbour

**The Lantern:** Carolyn Graber

**Military:** Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Mike Whitman); Christian Brown (US Air Force, grandson of Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

## STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*  
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*  
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*  
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*  
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

## SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*  
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*  
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2026	2027	2028
<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>	<i>Teresa Cassity</i>
<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni *</i>
<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>	<i>Donna Jones</i>
*2nd term of service		

## MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Teresa Cassity</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Donna Jones</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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