



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent

November 30, 2025

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Jennifer Johnson

Advent Candle Lighting

Lee & John Fox McCloud

Prelude

Max Jackson

Come Now Savior of Mankind

Helmut Walcha

† Call to Worship

JT Norris

Leader: Something stirs deep within us . . .

People: A longing, a hope, a thirst for joy,

Leader: A hunger for peace, a yearning for blessing.

People: We know deep within that our hopes and fears will be met by angel songs and baby sighs.

Leader: It is Advent . . .

People: A season of waiting, hoping, yearning.

Leader: It is Advent . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

† Hymn of Advent

#88 (1,5,6,7)

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 Key of David,
come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

O come, thou Dayspring,
come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we long for and need the presence of Christ in our lives. 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

As The Dark Awaits The Dawn

Carl Schalk

As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await Your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, till shades of fear
are gone. As the blue expected hour before the silver skies,
We long to see Your day arise, whole and wise, O brightest
Morning Star. As the moon reflects the sun until the nights
decrease, May we Your healing light release, living peace, until
Your holy dawn. Shine Your future on this place, enlighten every
guest, That through us stream Your holiness, bright and blest,
come down, O Sun of grace.

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: Habakkuk 2:1–3 (NRSV)

I will stand at my watch post and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what He will say to me and what He will answer concerning my complaint. ² Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

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

Psalm 40 (tune: Winchester Old)

#651

I Waited Patiently for God

I waited patiently for God, for God to hear my prayer.
And God bent down to where I sank and listened to me there.

God raised me from a miry pit, from mud and sinking sand.
And set my feet upon a Rock where I can firmly stand.

And on my lips a song was put, a new song to the Lord.
Many will marvel open eyed and put their trust in God.

Great wonders You have done, O Lord, all purposed for our good.
Unable every one to name, I bow in gratitude.

† The Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:5–26 (NRSV)

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him.

¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah He will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."

¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." ²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ "This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when He looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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

Sermon

Waiting in Silence

✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

† Hymn of Response

#83

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**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer (sins)

Offering Acknowledgement

Special Offering: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

† **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**

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† **Hymn of Sending**

#96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for He brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without Your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth Your hand; our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let Your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

Postlude

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SP Flor Peeters

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Teresa Cassity* | Liturgist: *JT Norris*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 90

General Offering: \$9,840.00

CARes: \$25.00

Online Offering: \$125.00

Total Offering: \$9,990.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

➡ SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

Family Advent Kick-Off, Noon

➡TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

➡WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

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

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

Open Chapel, 5:45 p.m.

➡THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

➡SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

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



Shepherds On the Hillside

By Teresa Cassity

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

● **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 who will delight the hearts of children of all ages. Questions, see Cathy Wilson.

● **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 fpcaky.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. Take advantage of this opportunity as you prepare for Christmas. 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 a.m. to 8 p.m.** We'll have a variety of activities planned to ensure everyone has a great time. Questions, see Kelly Hanni.

● **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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Week ending November 13, 2025

Christina Columber (Greg & Geri Willis)

Angel Horn (Nanette)

Kyler Kingery (Ashton Wheeler)

Stephanie Lester (Nanette)

Joyce McCallister (Susan Martell)

Peggy Padgett and family (Don Lilly's sister)

Ben Steele (Heather Shay & Angie Lewis' co-worker)

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)



A CHRIST-CENTERED Christmas

ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1

Isaiah 7:14

2

Isaiah 9:6-7

3

Malachi 3:1

4

Micah 5:2-4

5

Luke 1:5-7

6

Luke 1:10-15

7

Luke 1:18-22

8

Luke 1:24-25

14

Luke 2:15-20

13

Luke 2:8-14

12

Luke 2:6-7

11

Luke 2:1-5

10

Luke 1:30-33

9

Luke 1:26-29

15

Matthew 1:18-21

16

Matthew 1:22-25

17

Matthew 2:1-3

18

Matthew 2:4-6

19

Matthew 2:7-9

20

Matthew 2:10-12

21

Romans 15:13

23

Philippians 2:8-11

22

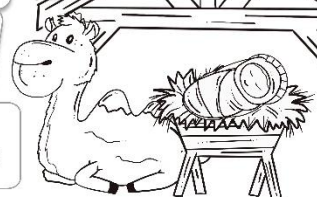
Galatians 4:4-5

24

James 1:16-18

25

John 3:16



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>
<i>*2nd term of service</i>		

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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