

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 1, 2024

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

PREPARATION, PROMISES, AND PRAISE

(We invite you to quiet yourself in preparation for the worship of God when you hear the prelude music.)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Hayes

Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman

Leader: Our souls magnify the Lord!

People: Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Leader: The mighty One has done great things for us!

People: Holy is God's name!

Leader: Let us worship God.

People: For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

from generation to generation God gives mercy. —based on Luke 1:46-50

\*Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 196

\*Prayer of Adoration

\*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Lord Jesus, we confess our willingness to be loved, but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love, but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love, but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew and, by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so - come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the Good News! Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are forgiven.

The penalty is paid. Thanks be to God for this amazing grace! —based on Isaiah 40:1-2

\*Gloria Patri No. 579

(Let the children come forward during the singing of the Gloria.)

Lighting of the Advent Candle Don & Wendy Andree

Children's Time Becky Bane

\*Hymn of Preparation "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" No. 251

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Anthem "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" Setting by K. Lee Scott

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes

Offertory "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" arr. Cummins

\*"The Doxology" No. 731

\*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Lesson: John 3:16 page 1052

Prayer of Illumination page 1125

Sermon: "Looking for the Real Jesus - Jesus, Our Good News!" Rev. Don Hardman

\*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" Page 845

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Take the bread as served; hold the cup to take together.

Please remain seated during the singing of the hymn.

Hymn "Blessed Assurance" No. 693

Benediction

Postlude "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" Olivers

\*\*\*\*\*

\*The Congregation is asked to stand, as you are able.

**CALENDAR**

Today, 12/1 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Diaconate Mtg., 12:00 pm  
Monday, 12/2 - Church office closed on Mondays  
Tuesday, 12/3 - SIBS (Sisters in Bible Study), 9:30 am; Men’s ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm  
Wednesday, 12/4 - First Wed. Book Club, 9:30 am; Feast @ First, 6:00 pm; Youth Group & First Kids, 6:30 pm; Carillonneurs, 7:00 pm  
Thursday, 12/5 - Men’s Breakfast, 8:00 am  
Friday, 12/6 - Prayer Mtg., 10:00 am

\* \* \* \* \*

**REMINDERS**

Elders:  
**Sound System:** Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown  
**Greeters Ramp Room** (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 1 - Doug & Marlene Flynn; Dec. 8 - Sue Brown; Dec. 15 - Charles Speck; Dec. 22 - Bob & Donna Broyles; Dec. 29 - Don & Wendy Andree  
**Greeters Narthex** (10:00-10:30): Dec. 1 - Jean Jamison; Dec. 8 - Andrea Guillard; Dec. 15 - Barry & Anne Webb; Dec. 22 - Kaye Ward; Dec. 29 - Ed & Debbie Bennett  
**Deacons on Duty:** Dec. 1 - Mary Thornhill, Cameron May; Dec. 8 - Donna Broyles, Marcia Ridenhour; Dec. 15 - Wendy Andree, Alison Boozer; Dec. 22 - Debbie Bennett, Sheila Harms; Dec. 29 - Brenda Edwards, Marlene Flynn

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK:** - Pray for persecuted Christians. Heb. 13:3; Ps. 12:5; Rev. 13:10; Ps. 74:21

\* \* \* \* \*

**PCC Food Needs** - December - Beef Stew

\* \* \* \* \*

*Hearing devices are located in the Narthex to assist in listening to today’s service*

Pastor: Rev. Don Hardman  
Director of Music: Rev. Keith Olivier  
Director of Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard  
Organist: Mr. William Turner  
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose