

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 10, 2023

2nd 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, as we gather in your house to worship, quiet our hearts and calm our spirits from the rush of life and the, often persistent, troubles of our world. As those who sought to know Jesus in the first century, we, too, “want to see Jesus” in our day and in our life more and more. O God, let it be for us today as we gather to worship You. Amen.

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO SHARE OUR LIFE IN CHRIST

Prelude “Come Now, Saviour of the Heathen” Buxtehude
Kevin Pfister, bassoon

Call to Worship Rev. Don Hardman
Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!
People: And we are filled with joy!
Leader: Our God has turned our weeping into singing,
People: our tears into songs of joy!
Leader: O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,
People: and remain in us forever. —based on Psalm 126

*Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” No. 196

*Prayer of Adoration

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you have led us into the light. We thank you for sending the Savior to call us from death to life. We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard his call, but when we heard him, like Lazarus, we arose. But, O Father, the grave clothes bind us still. Old habits that we struggle to throw off, old customs that are so much a part of our lives that we are helpless to live the new life that Christ calls us to live. Give us strength, O Father, to break the bonds; give us courage to live a new life in you; give us faith to believe that with your help we cannot fail. All this we ask in the name of Jesus who has taught us to come to you. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*Gloria Patri No. 579

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle Bryan & Camille Soukup

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Children’s Time Rev. Don Hardman
Children’s Worship is provided for ages 4–3rd grade in Room 205. Parents, please escort your children to this room.

*Hymn of Preparation “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” No. 200
(The congregation may come forward to place their 2¢-A-Meal offering in the container at the front of the Sanctuary)

Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 32:17 Page 706

Leader: This is the word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God

Anthem “Advent Peace Canon” arr. Schram

Scripture Lessons: Luke 2:14 Page 1014
Ephesians 2:13-14 Page 1157

Sermon: “Jesus Is Our Peace”
Rev. Don Hardman

RESPONSE IN DEDICATION AND OBEDIENCE

Prayers of the People of God and Our Lord’s Prayer
*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

Offering of Our Gifts and Tithes
Offertory “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” arr. Manz

*“The Doxology” No. 731

*Prayer of Dedication
*Hymn “Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Telling” No. 230

Benediction “Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.”
Postlude “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” arr. Held

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

CALENDAR

Today, 12/10 - Sunday School, 9:00 am; Worship, 10:30 am; Mission Information Mtg., 11:45 am
Monday, 12/11 - Church office closed on Mondays
Tuesday, 12/12 - Women in Ministry Bible Study, 11:00 am; Women in Ministry Lunch, 12:00 pm; Men's ZOOM Bible Study, 12:00 pm; Adult Bible Study (ABS), 5:15 pm; Chancel Choir, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, 12/13 - Youth Group, 6:00 pm; First Kids, 6:00 pm; Carillonneurs, 7:00 pm
Thursday, 12/14 - Staff Mtg., 10:00 am
Friday, 12/15 - Prayer Mtg., 10:00 am

* * * * *

REMINDERS

Elders: Don Andree, Phil Brown
Sound System: Kaye Wilkerson, Scott Rice, Rea Brown
Greeters Ramp Room (8:50-9:00 & 10:00-10:30): Dec. 10 - Nancy Poore; Dec. 17 - Bob & Donna Broyles; Dec. 24 - Don & Wendy Andree; Dec. 31 - Bud & Jesse Derey
Greeters Narthex (10:00-10:30): Dec. 10 - Martha Minter; Dec. 17 - Doug & Marlene Flynn; Dec. 24 - Ed & Debbie Bennett; Dec. 31 - Helen Thompson
Deacons on Duty: Dec. 10 - Lynn Wimmer, Susan Blanding; Dec. 17 - Donna Broyles, Pat Guerrant; Dec. 24 - Helen Thompson, Carolyn Keyes
Acolytes: Dec. 10 - Emma & Kylie Woolard; Dec. 17 - Bryleigh Trevett; Dec. 24 - Elizabeth Rice; Dec. 31 - David Bean
Children's Worship: Dec. 10 - Advent 3, The Shepherds Show the Way to Bethlehem - Leader, Deborah Mattern; Greeter; Jeff Povtak
Dec. 17 - Advent 4, The Magi Show the Way to Bethlehem - Leader, Deborah Mattern; Greeter; Pat Povtak
Dec. 24 - How the Church Tells Time - Leader: Missy Reed; Greeter: Mike Trail

* * * * *

PRAYER FOCUS FOR THE WEEK: - Pray for wisdom and discernment in all things. Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-10; Ps. 119:133

* * * * *

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 & Children's Ministries: Mrs. Patricia K. Trail
Director of Youth & Christian Education: Mr. Pete G. Guillard
Organist: Mr. William Turner
Handbell Director: Dr. Erma Rose

Welcome to First Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We are glad you are here and we pray that, as we share with each other and worship our God, you will find here a special presence and blessing of God. If you are a guest with us this morning we hope you will come again and, if so led, consider making First EPC your church home.