

First Presbyterian Church



512 Third Street SW

Rochester, Minnesota 55902

Phone 507-282-1618

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent**

8:30 & 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to worship

* * * *As a courtesy to others, please silence cell phones.* * * *

Gathering

Prelude Fantasy on VENI EMMANUEL, Op. 72, No. 5

Kenneth Leighton

Greeting and Welcome

Please sign the Opportunity for Friendship register and pass it to the person next to you.

Minute for Mission

Carol Cook, *Sharing Tree*

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candle

(8:30 a.m.) Judy Felten
(11:00 a.m.) Phyllis Schmid

Come, Lord Je - sus, we are wait - ing, Be our Guest this
Ad - vent day. Long - ing hearts watch ea - ger - ly
for Je - sus, who comes in Love.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Help us to see this candle's light shining in and through our lives, Lord. We are the people who watch and wait for Christmas, we acknowledge the great gift of love, in Jesus, your son. We look forward to his coming again. Stay in our hearts this Advent season. Amen.

◆ Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.

◆ **Hymn 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Call to Reconciliation

(8:30 a.m.) Carol Evans

(11:00 a.m.) Mary Huie

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life. Let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to your presence in our lives, in the church, or in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for you attentively. Awaken us to your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near you are to our very own gates. Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven, into your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

Silent Confession

Kyrie (GTG 91, adapt.)

COME EMMANUEL

Come, Lord, come grant Em - man - u - el. mer - cy.

Come, Lord, Em - man - u - el. have mer - cy.

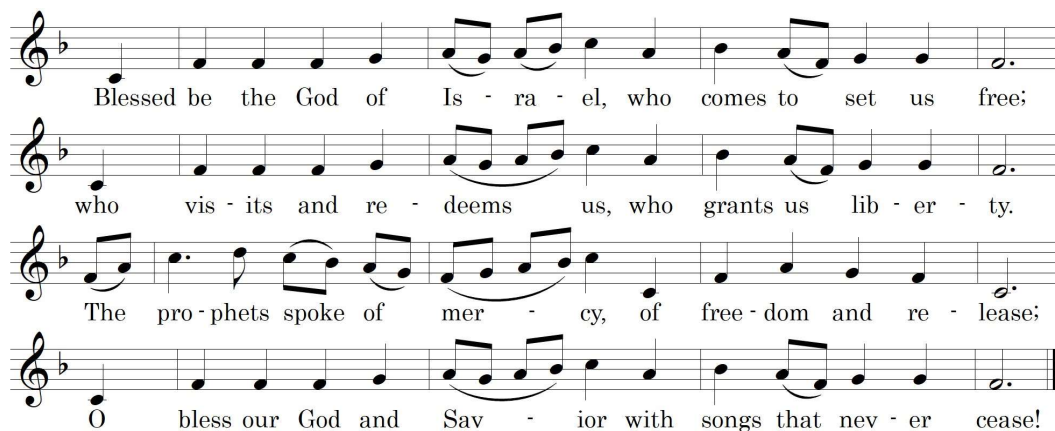
Words of Life

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again.

Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.

◆ **Canticle of Praise** (GTG 109, adapt.)

FOREST GREEN



Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free;
who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

Time for Young Worshipers

Passing of the Peace

Please refrain from shaking hands and greet each other with a word of peace or a wave of the hand.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ with one another!

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength,

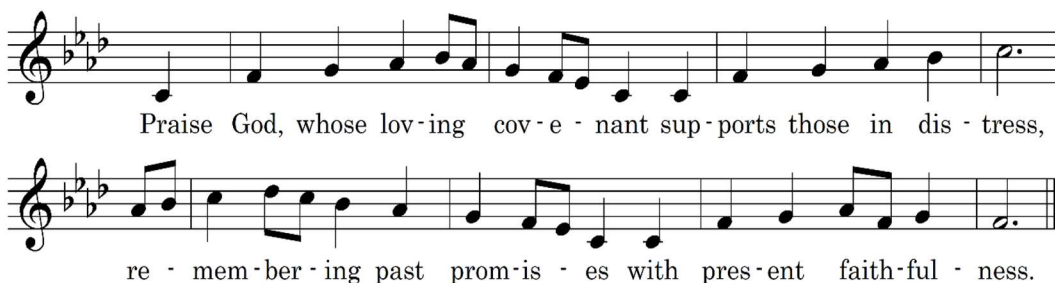
**by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts
for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the
glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading from the Psalms

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Acclamation of Praise (GTG 99, stanza 5)

MORNING SONG



Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress,
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our Response

- ◆ **Hymn 355** O Hear Our Cry, O Lord VINEYARD HAVEN
- ◆ **Affirmation of Faith** from A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA, 1991

We know our efforts cannot bring in God’s kingdom. But hope plunges us into the struggle for victories over evil that are possible now in the world, the church, and our individual lives. Hope gives us courage and energy to contend against all opposition, however invincible it may seem, for the new world and the new humanity that are surely coming. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

(8:30am) Advent Pastorale Thomas Adams, ed. Jon Spong
 (11:00am) Never weather-beaten sail Charles Wood

Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore, never tired pilgrim limbs affected slumber more, Than my weary sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:
 O come quickly, come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest!
 Ever blooming are the joys of heaven’s high Paradise, Cold age deafs not there our ears nor vapour dims our eyes: Glory there the sun out-shines; whose beams the Blessed only see: O come quickly, come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to Thee!

Text: Thomas Campion
 Chancel Choir

- ◆ **Offertory Response (GTG 84, stanza 4)** CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,
 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,
 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

◆ **Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fullness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase generosity within us, we pray, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader *People* *Leader* *People* *People*

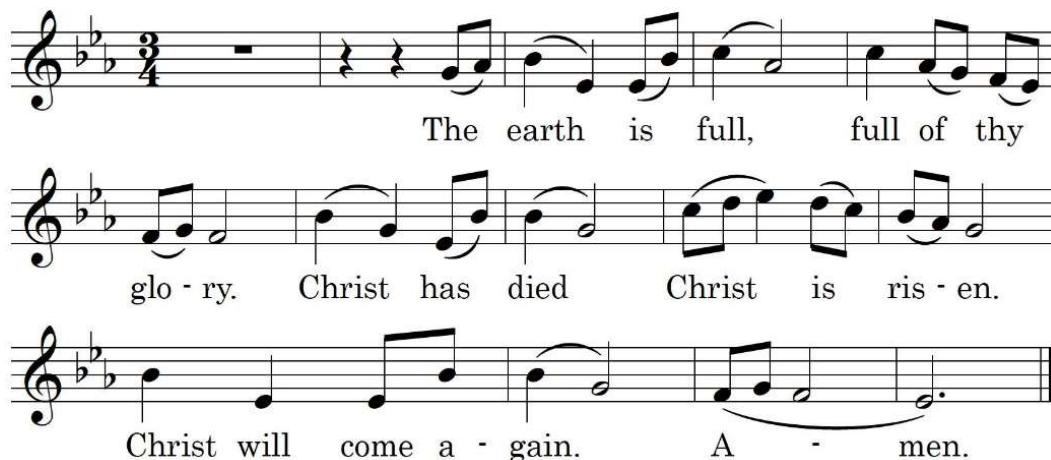
Sanctus

... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name...

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Memorial Acclamation

... Great is the mystery of faith:



The earth is full, full of thy
glo - ry. Christ has died Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come a - gain. A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Please come forward to be served using the center aisle. If you wish to be served in the pew, a server will be in the side aisle to assist you.

Music at Communion

Variations on VENI EMMANUEL Ferguson & Hampton

Prayer after Communion

Sending

- ◆ **Hymn 82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL
- ◆ **Benediction**
- Postlude** Toccata on VENI EMMANUEL Adolphus Hailstork

The flowers are given for the Glory of God
in loving memory of William Nichols
by Sharon Nichols and family.

Music and text reproduced from the Public Domain and by permission under OneLicense A-718669
Please see the *Stained Glass Window* for a full list of church activities.

*Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting (CGA-592) Text: Helen Stensrud, Music: Dorothy Christopherson.
Copyright 1992 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.
Reproduced for congregational use by permission of the publisher.*

Stained Glass Window

What is happening around FPC ...
Week of December 3, 2023



This Week's Calendar

- † **Sunday, December 3**
Worship & Communion—8:30am in-person
Message: *Recycled & Restored*,
Rev. T.J. Parlette
Christian Formation & Fellowship—9:30am
Advent Creations
Kerygma meets
Worship & Communion—11am
in-person & livestreamed
- † **Monday, December 4**
FPC @ Community Food Response—1pm
- † **Tuesday, December 5**
Deacons Meeting—7pm
Various committees meet
- † **Wednesday, December 6**
Worship & Communion at Charter House—
1pm
FPC @ Friendship Place
Youth Music Program—4:45pm
Wednesday Programming Dinner—5:30pm
Midweek Evening Prayer Service—6:05pm
Advent Bible Study—6:30pm
- † **Thursday, December 7**
Jubilate Deo—6pm
Chancel Choir—7pm
- † **Saturday, December 9**
Sitter Service—9:30am-noon
- † **Sunday, December 10**
Worship—8:30am in-person
Message: Rev. Karla Ann Koll
Christian Formation & Fellowship—9:30am
Kerygma meets
Worship—11am in-person & livestreamed

Sharing Tree

The Sharing Tree is back! This Advent season, we are offering you an opportunity to help different charitable organizations in Rochester by selecting a colored gift tag from the tree located on the Welcome Desk in the Atrium. This year's organizations include **The Landing**, **Hawthorne Helps** and **The Women's Shelter**. Return your unwrapped gifts to the church library before **December 17**.



Advent Creations



Rejoice!

Advent Creations Sunday, December 3 9:45am

Cookies & Crèches



Bring your favorite Nativity scene to display in the atrium on Sunday, December 10. We will enjoy cookies and holiday punch throughout the morning. Drop your set off at the church by Saturday morning and we will set them up. Contact Jane Murl with questions at (507) 259-1726.

Midweek Evening Prayer Services



Join us in the sanctuary at 6:05pm on Wednesday for a brief respite from your week. The evening service will include not only prayer, but other forms of devotion in music, poetry and reflection.

Advent Study



Rev. T.J. is leading an Advent study on Wednesdays at 6:30pm using the book, *"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* by Adam Hamilton. Copies are available for purchase in the church office for \$14.

Poinsettia Fund



We are still accepting contributions to the **Christmas Poinsettia Fund**. The cost is \$15 and plants will be displayed in various areas around the church during Advent and will be taken to a Deacon C.A.R.E. member before Christmas.

Judy Felten, Chancel Guild

Church



Family

Birthdays...

03 December

◆ Randolph Nkwelle Mesumbe & Sara Pruett

04 December

◆ Elliot Mahon & Carol Smyrk

05 December

◆ David Smyrk

06 December

◆ Jonathan Oullette

07 December

◆ James Li & Lynda Sharbrough

08 December

◆ Bitta Youmans

09 December

◆ Nancy Eckerson

Fair Trade Market

Free Trade items will be available for sale in the Atrium between services on December 10th. This is not a fundraiser but an opportunity to purchase unique handmade items and products from artisans and farmers who live in poverty. The Fair Trade Federation ensures the rights of children by never using exploitative child labor. We invite you to stop by our tables to browse, shop and learn more about Fair Trade.

Presbyterian Giving Catalogue

The Mission Committee has a small display in the Atrium during the month of December to encourage members to select items/gifts to send to our brothers and sisters from around the world. *The Presbyterian Giving Catalog* features small gifts that can have a big impact on the lives of others. No wrapping required!! Choices available include sewing machines, kitchen kits, fishing kits, famine relief, water filters, a piglet, or a family of chickens!

Please look for the display in the Atrium and pick up a catalog today! Just take the catalog home, read through it, pick out what you would like to sponsor and send your check to the PC(USA).



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Mission Committee at FPC would like to invite you to participate in the *Christmas Joy Offering* during the month of December. The *Joy Offering* honors the faithfulness of our Presbyterian Church leaders and workers. Current and retired Presbyterian Church workers and their families can receive critical financial help through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions to support them through life's challenging circumstances. The offering also provides support for leadership development for communities of color to help build the future of our church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas J. (T.J.) Parlette, Senior Pastor
John E. Stender, Director of Music and Organist
Lee J. Afdahl, Director of Music Emeritus
Harry E. Coleman, Facility Manager
Jesse Copley, Custodian
Than Boutelle, Custodian/Sunday Host

Cindy Kunzman, Office Manager
Sarah A. Stender, Music Associate
Janine M. Yanisch, First Players bands
Paul Herr, Security
Margie Schaaf, Sunday Host

Sunday worship in-person at 8:30 & 11am, and livestreamed on YouTube at 11am;
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm

First Presbyterian Church / 512 Third Street SW / Rochester, MN 55902
(507) 282-1618; web@fpcrochester.org; www.fpcrochester.org

*First Presbyterian Church is an
inclusive community celebrating God with:
†Energy †Intelligence †Imagination †Love*

Member: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)