



## **First Presbyterian Church**

**149 Broad Street**

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**Church: (716) 692-1319**

**Rev. Leslie Latham**

**CCLI License # 2839486**

*Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin*

### **Second Sunday in Advent: See Hope**

**December 5, 2021**

**10:30am**

**We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness all the peoples;**

but the Lord will arise upon you,

**and God's glory will appear over you.**

Lift up your eyes and look around.

**See and be radiant.**

Let your heart thrill and rejoice.

**Let us worship God. Amen.**

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*Nathan Harrington, Alvin & Laura Marohn*

Where do we see hope?

In light that shines in darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

In the light of one candle that illumines a face or ignites a thousand other candles.

Where do we see hope?

In the human fragility of a baby, full of promise.

For unto us a child is born,

and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.

On this second Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to see hope.

*(Light the second candle)*

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you and hope to follow you.

## CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

#772

*Live into Hope, verse 2*

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,

removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

## GATHERING PRAYER

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

**HYMN:** #83 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

*Time for Silent Confession*

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, I am confident of this:

if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.

The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion.

**We are grateful for the promise of joy and of peace.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE  
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Isaiah 9:2

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Psalm 139:1-18 (see insert)

**SERMON:**

**The Rev. Leslie Latham**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**CALL TO THE OFFERING**

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all righteousness, receive these gifts of gratitude, the offerings of our lives. Purify them with your refining fire so that they may serve your purposes and shine with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SONG BEFORE COMMUNION** #133      *O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1,3)*

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**HYMN:**                      #384              *Soon and Very Soon*

**CHARGE**

Cry out in the wilderness, cry out in our world:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

Now go. Go out. Go forth with the grace and peace of God.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **Hymns**

#### **“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”**

1 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.

2 Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

#### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels! (Refrain)

#### **Refrain**

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

#### **“Soon and Very Soon”**

1 Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King (3x)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are going to see the King!

2 No more crying there: we are going to see the King (3x)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are going to see the King!

3 No more dying there: we are going to see the King (3x)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are going to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King (3x)  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are going to see the King!

## The Lord's Supper for Advent

This is the joyful feast of the people of God.

**We have come from east and west.**

We have come from north and south

**To feast at our Lord's table.**

When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took bread and blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

**Who can come to this table?**

Our Savior invites all those who trust him, and who want to trust him more, to come to this table.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Why do we give thanks at this table?

**We give thanks and praise to God, creator and ruler of the universe. The grass withers and the flower fades, but God's word stands forever. God speaks tenderly to us, with tidings of peace and comfort.**

How do we praise God for all this?

**We join our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who sing to God's glory:**

**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.**

Baptized by John, Jesus came to be our way in the wilderness, to wash us clean from the dust of death and the stain of sin, and to pour out the power of the Spirit among us.

What do we remember at this table?

**We remember God's son Jesus, and we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.**

**Why do we eat bread at this table?**

Jesus took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his friends.

**Why do we drink from the cup at this table?**

Jesus gave them the cup as the promise that our sins are forgiven.

**But this just everyday bread and juice.**

Let us pray that the everyday bread and juice will become holy:

**Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world.**

As Christ's body sent to serve the world you so love, O God, we lift before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need, saying, "God in your mercy," and responding with, "Hear our prayer."

*Please offer your petitions, ending with "God in your mercy;" all respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Gracious God, grant that when we are called, we may faithfully serve, strengthened and renewed at this table. Help us to repent and live in peace with you and with one another, watching and praying your new heavens and new earth where righteousness and justice will be at home.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us: **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 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.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **Communion of the People**

*Please take your piece of bread, dip it in the cup, and partake, or take them separately.*

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## Psalm 139:1-18

<sup>1</sup> O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup> You searched out my path and my resting places, and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my lips, O Lord, you know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup> You pursue me behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so lofty, I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make the grave my bed, you are there!

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Let only darkness cover me, and the light about me be night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you,

the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with you.

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts, you knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>14</sup> I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; Wonderful are your works!

You know me very well; <sup>15</sup> my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,  
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> Your eyes beheld my unformed substance; in your book were written the days that were formed for me,  
every day, before they came into being.

<sup>17</sup> How profound to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

To count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.