



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
KIRKWOOD

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
December 1, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday of Advent

***Mission:** We are called to be a welcoming and supportive community whose inspiring worship of God encourages everyone to deepen their faith and to respond to the needs of the world with the compassion of Christ.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

_____ ***Please rise in body or spirit.** _____

Chiming of the Hour

We encourage you to quiet your minds and hearts for worship at this time.

Welcome and Announcements

Sign the Friendship Register at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor.

Organ Voluntary

"Andante in D with Variations"

Felix Mendelssohn

WE ADDRESS OURSELVES TO GOD

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The days are surely coming when we will see signs in the heavens and on the earth.

All: We come, watching and waiting, for our redemption is drawing near.

Leader: The powers of this world may shake, and fear may fill the nations,

All: But we will stand tall and lift our heads, for Christ is our hope.

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

All: Let us watch, let us wait. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Hymn**

"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"

Hymn #348

***We Light the Advent Candle of Hope**

Nina Windsor, Ellie Windsor, and Isaac Smith

***Congregational Response (Unison):**

Living God, fill us with hope in this season of waiting. May we carry your light into our world, trusting in the promise of Christ's coming. Amen.

***Choral Response**

"Christmas Is Coming"

John Bell

"Christmas is coming!", the Church is glad to sing, and let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring. The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right, and bring to earth's darkness the hope of love and light.

***The Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share that peace with one another.

Reception of New Members

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Pew Bible, O.T., pg. 738

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25

"Teach Me Your Ways, O Lord"

David Catherwood

Teach me Your ways, O Lord, and make them known to me. Teach me to live in truth, Your servant here to be. I put my trust in You for days I cannot see. Teach me Your ways, O Lord, and make them known to me. Teach me Your will, O Lord, and make it known to me. Teach me to live in love, a friend to others be. I put my trust in You for days I cannot see. Teach me your will, O Lord, and make it known to me.

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36; Pew Bible, O.T., pg. 85

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Raise Your Heads

Rev'd. Gary Noonan

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Anthem

"Comfort, My People"

Ian Callanan

Comfort, my people, and calm all your fear; the day of salvation is quickly drawing near. The One you long to see will soon set you free. O come, Lord Jesus, come. Silence the thunder, silence

sounds of war. End all destruction and comfort those who mourn. Your dream draws near; your vision is here. O come, Lord Jesus, come. Be light in the darkness; be light for our lives. Be strength for the helpless, the poor and lost who cry. O saving voice, O living choice, O come, Lord Jesus, come.

Prayer of Dedication

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

All are invited to celebrate Communion. The bread is gluten-free to ensure that all are welcome to the table.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Leader: In this season of Advent, as we wait and watch for Christ's coming

People: We gather at this table to be nourished by God's grace.

Leader: This is a table for the weary and the hopeful, for the joyful and the broken

People: For those who long for a glimpse of God's kingdom.

Leader: Here, bread is broken and shared, and the cup is poured out for all.

People: Here, Christ meets us in our hunger and fills us with His peace.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right...we join our voices with the heavenly choir, singing.....

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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.**

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Communion Hymns

"For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits" Hymn #89
"Wait for the Lord" Hymn #90

Prayer Of Commitment (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for this holy meal, for the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we go forth from this table, may we stand tall in hope, watching for signs of Your kingdom, and ready to serve You with joy. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

WE DEPART TO SERVE THE LORD

***Closing Hymn** "The Days Are Surely Coming" Hymn #357

***Benediction**

Choral Response "Prepare the Way of the Lord" Jacques Berthier
Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

Organ Voluntary "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

Worship Leaders:

Rev'd. Gary Noonan, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Linda Maconochie, *Interim Associate Pastor*

Music Ministry:

Bill Stein, *Director of Music Ministries*; Kevin Chunko, *Music Associate*; Chancel Choir

Acolyte: Adrienne Butler **Cross Bearer:** Wyatt Butler

Communion Servers:

Sam Butler, Gerry and Helena DeWulf, Ruth Noonan, Wanda Ware, Jeanne Earley

Ushers:

Georgia Hepp, Joe Marting, Lindsay Marting, Wayne Ullery
Amy Freshwater, Robert Schneider, Larry Erwin, Art McDonnell, *Assistant Usher Captains*
Carol Layton, *Usher Captain*

Livestream Host: Teddy Lester-Boal