Offertory Anthem

“Every Valley”
John Ness Beck

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low;
and the crooked made straight, and the rough places plain.
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve the Lord

*Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Hymn No. 88
Please sing stanzas 1 through 4

*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 Postlude

“Veni Emmanuel”
Robert J. Powell

The Postlude signifies the conclusion of worship.
Please remain seated.

Worship Leaders:
Rev. Dr. David Holyan, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

Music Ministry:
Chancel Choir; Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries;
Travis Evans, Music Associate

Live Streaming Host:
Gary Hepp

Ushers:
Jim Cooper, Pam Cooper, David Kistler, Marilyn Kistler,
Jason Mitchell, Kristy Mitchell, Marty Sumner, Missy Wulff
Carol Layton, Usher Captain

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD
100 EAST ADAMS AVENUE
KIRKWOOD, MISSOURI 63122
314-965-0326
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ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Prelude signifies the beginning of worship. Let us join together in a time of quiet preparation as the music begins.

We Gather to Worship God

Organ Prelude
“Veni, Veni, Emmanuel” Leo Sowerby

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy
The Campbell Family
“Come, Emmanuel, Come” Cindy Berry

We Address Ourselves to God

*Call to Worship
Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.
People: Our God keeps faith forever.
Leader: Our God executes justice for the oppressed.
People: Our God gives food to the hungry.
Leader: Our God sets the prisoners free.
People: Our God opens the eyes of the blind.
Leader: Our God lifts up those who are bowed down.
People: Our God loves the righteous.
Leader: Our God watches over the stranger.
People: Our God upholds the orphan and the widow.
Leader: Let us worship our God!

*Hymn “Prepare the Way, O Zion” Hymn No. 106

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession
God of care and compassion, you promise sight for the blind, justice for the oppressed, compassion for those without family, and food and clothing for the poor and hungry. You seek to continue the ministry promised by the prophets through the birth of Jesus and your church. You seek to continue this ministry through us. Forgive us for all the ways we draw back from doing what is right. Forgive us our sin. Continue to empower us for goodness. Continue to equip us for loving service to those in need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Silent Confessions

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response to Confession “While We Are Waiting, Come” Hymn No. 92

*The Passing of the Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*Silent Confessions

*Assurance of Pardon

*Response to Confession “While We Are Waiting, Come” Hymn No. 92

*The Passing of the Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
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Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

Please Sign and Pass the Friendship Registers
See the bulletin insert regarding information on the life and work of our congregation.

Time with the Children

We Hear God’s Word

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-10 Pew Bible, O.T., pg. 665
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms of the Day
“I’ll Praise My Maker” Hymn No. 806
Please remain seated and join in singing

Second Reading Matthew 11:2-11 Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 11
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “The Good News” Rev. Dr. David Holyan

We Respond to God’s Word

*Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” Hymn No. 95

Reception of New Members

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer 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.

Offertory Sentences

Offering of the People