



November 27, 2022

The First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our Facebook page - [First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana](#). We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

We will share Holy Communion this morning. The table is open to all who claim Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and to all who are seeking a closer relationship with God. Individual juice and bread sets are available on the tables near the entrances.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"Nun komm der Heiden Heiland"

Johann Sebastian Bach

THE INTROIT

"Advent Responsory"

John Brooks

I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

'Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?'

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

'Hear O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come?'

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

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THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Liturgy of Candlelighting

The Hymn . . . no. 85, verse 1

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Tif in Vedele; Yiddish folk song

Wayne L. Wold

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One Hope is gravity for the broken:
All Pulling us up.
One Hope is manna in the wilderness:
All When we want to give up.
One Hope is seeing stars in the city:
All When we forget the sky is there.
One Hope is the anthem of faith:
All And the reason we're here.
One So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,
All For the God of new life is drawing near. Let us worship God!

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 97**

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

*Aberystwyth; Joseph Perry
John Bowring*

**Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.**

**Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!**

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One God of today and God of tomorrow,
You say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."
All But we say, "Our lives are too messy."
One You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams. There's room for you here."
All But we say, "it's too risky to hope."
One You say "Bring your grief and your prayers. There's room for you here."
All But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."
One God of today and God of tomorrow, we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.
**All Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.
Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.**
One Help us remember, today and tomorrow,
All There's room for every story.
One And hear our silent prayers:

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 93, verse 3**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

*Truro; Musica Sacra
Georg Weissel*

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE LESSON FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE ANTHEM

"Thou Shalt know Him"

Mark Sirett

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown,
but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.*

Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

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THE CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*Following the Children's Moment, those in PreK through 5th grades may go to Sunday School.
They will return to worship for the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

One The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

"Wearing the Armor of Light"

Rev. Wendy VanderZee

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

We believe in a God who promised to Abraham, who wrestled with Jacob, who walked with Ruth, who spoke with Moses, who grieved with Bathsheba, who danced with David, who dreamed with Joseph, and who hoped like Mary. We believe in a God who has been loving, inviting, transforming, and challenging us from generation to generation. And we believe that same God is here with us now, saying, "Come on in; there's room for you here."

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

"Taste and See"

Robert Nicholls

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 607

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Old Hundredth
Neil Weatherhogg

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Words of Invitation to the Table

One The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

One Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

One ...With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices
with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus to sing:

All **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.

the prayer continues...

The Lord's Prayer *(in 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.

The Words of Institution
The Partaking of the Elements
The Prayer After Communion

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

***THE CLOSING HYMN . . . no. 87**

Genevan 42; Genevan Psalter
Johannes Olearius

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

***THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION**

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us”

Wachet Auf; Philipp Nicolai

*“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us; the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken, their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast my share.”*

THE POSTLUDE

“Sleepers Wake!” (BWV 645)

Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Bridge Co-Pastors Wendy and John VanderZee
Liturgist Scott Wylie
Advent Liturgy Jean Beckman and Carolyn Stilwell
Director of Music Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

The First Pres Session continues to monitor local pandemic conditions and modify our **COVID safety protocols** as conditions warrant. **The current CDC Level is Yellow/Medium**; please continue to practice good public health.

As we prepare to receive Rev. Anna vonWinckler as our Interim Minister in January, we are continually working to make sure all of our information is up-to-date in First Web, our online community. An important piece of that information is **your picture!** If your photo is not already in First Web, please plan to take a minute or two **after worship next Sunday** when Jerusha Van Camp and Carrie Aiken will be happy to take your photo for the church's secure database. Thank you!

One highlight of the Advent season at First Pres is the **Service of Advent Lessons and Carols**. The music department has been hard at work for some time on this year's service of music and spoken word. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend or family member to worship at First Pres with you on **Sunday, December 11**.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Michelle Haywood

Sunday, November 27

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
5:30 p.m. First Light

Monday, November 28

Tuesday, November 29

3:45 p.m. Choir Teens
4:45 p.m. Handbells/Handchimes
6:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
5:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, December 1

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
4:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 2

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 3

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Bridge Co-Pastors
Director of Music
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator
Parish Visitor
Office Administrator
Administrative Assistant

John and Wendy VanderZee
Robert Nicholls
Carrie Aiken
Carolyn Stilwell
Lora Blaylock
Jerusha Van Camp



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First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with
the Covenant Network
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