

# Advent



DECEMBER 1, 2024 • 8:15 + 11:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: "Prelude, Fugue, and Ciacona" .....Dietrich Buxtehude

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brian, Ann, Matthew, Micah, and Suzanne Lankford (8:15)

Dawn, Emma Grace, and Ruthie Burgess (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Luke 2:29-32 ..... Todd Erickson

♠HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 131 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" ..... HYFRYDOL

*Words: Charles Wesley, Mark E. Hunt / Music: Rowland H. Prichard / Luke 2:25*

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to  
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day - spring  
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose  
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a

set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re -  
from on high, ap - pear; come, thou prom - ised Rod of  
glo - ries knew no end; by his life he brings us  
child and yet a king, born to reign in us for -

lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.  
ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the  
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings  
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our

earth thou art, dear De - sire of ev - 'ry  
of a birth: "Go to him, your prais - es  
cat - tle stall; this the ev - er - last - ing  
hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf - fi - cient

na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

◆INVOCATION

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

*Give Online:* [2pc.org/give](http://2pc.org/give)

*Give by Text:* Text SECOND to (901) 410-9500 to give to the General Fund.

*Text WORLD to the same number to give to World Missions.*

*Give by Mail:* Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Words: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; tr. John Mason Neale / Music: arr. Trevor Manor / John 1:1, 14*

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face—evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of Heav'n adore Him; angel hosts His praises sing;  
All dominions, bow before Him and exalt our God and King;  
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,  
Every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

*The Chancel Choir  
Calvin Ellis, director*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*At this time, parents may take children to the nursery.*

◆PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



HYMN OF PREPARATION: "Fullness of Grace" . . . . . Getty Music

Words and Music: Keith and Kristyn Getty; Stuart Townend

Ava Shatley, soloist:

Fullness of grace in man's human frailty; this is the wonder of Jesus.  
 Laying aside His power and glory, humbly He entered our world.  
 Chose the path of meanest worth; scandal of a virgin birth.  
 Born in a stable, cold and rejected; here lies the hope of the world.

♠ Congregation stands and joins:



2. Full - ness of grace the love of the Fa - ther, shown in the face of  
 3. Full - ness of hope in Christ we had longed for; Pro - mise of God in



Je - sus. Stoop - ing to bear the weight of hu - man - i - ty;  
 Je - sus. Through His o - bed - ience we are for - giv - en,



Walk - ing the Cal - va - ry road. Christ, the Ho - ly inn - o - cent  
 op - 'ning the flood-gates of Heav'n. All our hopes and dreams we bring



took our sin and pun - ish - ment. Full - ness of God, des -  
 glad - ly as an off - er - ing. Full - ness of life and



- pised and re - ject - ed; Crushed for the sins of the world.  
 joy un - speak - a - ble: God's gift in love to the world.

SCRIPTURE LESSON. . . . . Joshua 1:5-9  
 (page 178 in pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
**but the Word of our God will stand forever.** (Isaiah 40:8)

SERMON: With Us for Courage . . . . . George Robertson

- I. Infallible Bond (5)
- II. Assured Destination (6)
- III. Superior Guidance (7-8)

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

# THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

✦PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH . . . . . The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

✦GLORIA PATRI . . . . . GREATOREX

*Music: Henry W. Greatorex / Psalm 29:2*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.**

## CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and holy Father,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept Your pardoning grace  
but also our refusal to forgive others.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by Your grace;  
transform us to receive You with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon; with obedience, as Mary;  
and with love, as You have loved us.  
We make our prayer in the strong name of Jesus, our Savior.**

## INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON . . . . . Galatians 4:4-5

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,  
to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND 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.**

## SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

“Come Find His Rest” . . . . . arr. Dan Forrest

Words and Music: Erik Dewar, Horatius Bonar; arr. Dan Forrest

Come, weary one, leave thy labors.  
Come lift thy head, see thy Savior and Friend.  
His arms are opened wide, O soul, be satisfied.  
Come find His rest.

*Take His yoke upon thee, for He is gentle and lowly in heart.  
So learn from Christ the Lord, thy portion and reward.  
Come find His rest.*

I heard the voice of Jesus say, I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Come unto me and rest.  
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”  
I came to Jesus as I was—so weary, worn, and sad.  
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest.”

*Emily Hale, soloist*

◆HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: No. 670 “Blessed Be the God of Israel” . . . . . FOREST GREEN

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. / Music: English Folk Song; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams / Luke 1:68-79

1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free  
2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3. My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre-pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

✦BENEDICTION

✦BENEDICTION RESPONSE..... GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

POSTLUDE: "Paeon on Wachut Auf" ..... David Lasky

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

*Instrumentalists: Andy Yu and James Ryan, violin; Beth Luscombe, viola; Mark Wallace, cello; Leo Davis, organ*

## Sermon Notes

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# Hanging of the Green

**Tonight · Activities Begin at 5:00 p.m.**

We'll kick off Advent Season tonight at Hanging of the Green! The evening will look a little different from previous years with the main change being that activities will begin at 5:00 p.m., before the 6:00 p.m. service.

Activity stations for families with children up to 5th grade will be located in the C Basement and Fellowship Hall—featuring cookie decorating, crafts, and more. In addition, youth and Shine participants are invited to a “Cocoa & Karaoke” party in the Salmon Room! Please enter through the West Entrance for activities.

Pre-service fun isn't just for children and youth—adults are invited to help the Floral Guild with decorating the International Ministry tree at the West Entrance, the tree inside the Fellowship Hall, and hanging wreaths on all exterior doors of the building. In addition, all ages are invited to stop by the photo booth in the Fellowship Hall to capture a merry moment with loved ones.

Following worship, which will be led by our children's choirs, we'll gather outside for the annual live nativity.

## Advent

Save the dates below and invite your family and friends to join us throughout the month of December for worship services and activities for all ages. Visit [2pc.org/advent](http://2pc.org/advent) for more dates, details, and service opportunities.

**Festival of Carols**

*December 8, 6:00 p.m.*

**Sing Hallelujah**

*December 15, 6:00 p.m.*

**Nine Lessons and Carols**

*December 22, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.*

**Christmas PJ Party**

*December 22, 4:30 p.m.*

**A Gospel Christmas**

*December 22, 6:00 p.m.*

**Christmas Eve Worship**

*4:00 p.m. Family Service*

*5:30, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m.*

*Candlelight Communion Services*

### **Congregational Meeting: December 8**

The Session has called the congregation to meet on Sunday, December 8 at both morning services to elect officers to begin service in January 2025 on the Diaconate and Session. Those up for election have previously been nominated by the congregation and have completed a period of training and examination.

## Caring Ministry Update

### Sympathy to:

Janis Boyd on the death of her daughter, *Lundy Boyd Carpenter*, November 17, 2024, in Piperton, TN. Mrs. Carpenter was the sister of Dan Boyd.

### In the Hospital: (as of 11/25/24)

Lynn Ballinger, *Baptist Memphis* (no visitors)

## Weekly Prayer Focus

**World Missions–Cierra:** Cierra serves in the Middle East and has worked diligently learning the language and culture and forming relationships with Syrian refugees. Due to the conflict there, Cierra and her teammates made the difficult decision to evacuate to England to stay with friends of her teammates. They have met with a couple from their organization who focus on member care. While it is discouraging for their pursuits and progress to be interrupted with this unexpected but hopefully temporary move out of the country, Cierra and her teammates feel confident they made the right decision for their safety. They know the Lord will continue to work in their absence and pray that they can return soon. Please pray for the war to end and for the refugees and people in the Middle East to know Christ, even in these difficult days.

**Domestic Missions–Families Matter:** Families Matter's mission is to strengthen families, change lives, and transform Memphis by intentionally using their educational efforts to support boys, young men, and seasoned men in understanding their Biblical mandate to love, nurture, and financially support their children, whether they are in the mother's life or not. Please pray that those served through Families Matter are receptive and desire to learn how to become their best selves. Pray also that students are protected in their homes, schools, and other places they visit. Finally, pray that Families Matter associates are protected as they go into diverse communities to assist students and adults in learning a better way to live their lives.

**2PC Ministry–Women in Ministry:** Please join us in thanking God for the innumerable ways He is blessing Second's sisters. He has strengthened our sisters' faith and deepened their joy as they've encountered Him in the book of Exodus this Fall. Praise God for the evangelistic opportunities He's opened up with non-Christian neighbors, friends, and family as well as for many encouraging conversations with fellow believers. Pray that He would continue energizing them by His Spirit to retell the good news about Jesus clearly, wisely, and boldly as they gather with friends and family this holiday season.

## December Flowers

**The flowers in the Sanctuary this month are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:** *Bernice and George Flinn* by their sons, George, Jr., Fred, and Carl, and their families; *Mr. and Mrs. William D. Nicholson* by their children and grandchildren; *Lillian and Thomas Patton* by Susan and Claude Crawford, Elizabeth and John Holmes, and their grandchildren; *Benjamin Weber and Bill Weber* by Vicki Weber.

## Christmas Flower Order Form

I/We wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Flower Ministry of Second Presbyterian Church for use in decorating the church for the Christmas season in memory or honor of loved ones. Please acknowledge the gift (omitting the amount) in the bulletin on Sunday, December 22 as follows:

Please check *ONLY* one:  In Memory of  In Honor of  In Gratitude for

Name: .....

Given by: .....

Donor Phone Number: .....

***December 15 is the deadline for the inclusion of names in the bulletin on December 22, 2024.***

*Please return this form with your check made out to Second Presbyterian Church and send to 4055 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38111. Clearly designate the gift for the "Flower Ministry."*

***An online order form is available at [2pc.org/flowers](http://2pc.org/flowers).***

## Do You Have the 2PC Mobile App?

Have you downloaded our church app? It's a great tool for easily registering for events and Bible studies, searching our media library, giving online, searching your parish directory, and more. Simply search "Second Presbyterian Church" in the Apple App Store to download!

## Sign Up for the Messenger!

The best way to find out what's going on at Second is to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, simply scroll to the orange box at the bottom of our homepage ([2pc.org](http://2pc.org)) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Fridays! For even more content, follow [@2pcmempis](https://www.facebook.com/2pcmempis) on Facebook and Instagram.

## Getting Connected at Second



For information about Second, visit our website at [2pc.org](http://2pc.org) or contact Amanda Coop, Director of Engagement, at [amanda.coop@2pc.org](mailto:amanda.coop@2pc.org) or (901) 312-0248.

You may also scan the QR code at left to complete a short form to connect with our staff or update your contact information.



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