

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn** *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”* **#2**

***Blessing**

***Choral Response**

***Sending**

Leader: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *“Come, Savior of the Nations”* **J.S. Bach**

**Please stand if you are able to do so comfortably.*

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Alton & Mary Ream Anthony & Rose Bak, Curtis Rea, and Rosanne Vogel, with love from the Rea Family.

FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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First United Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. We stand in the PCUSA tradition and belief that all are welcome into the fullness of the church including but not limited to worship, membership, governance, and participation in the sacraments (baptism and communion).

Stated plainly, we practice that all are truly welcome at First United Presbyterian Church in Tarentum.



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Where People and Community Matter"

A Matthew 25 Congregation



Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Eleven o' clock

Prelude *"We Greet Thee, Blessed Jesus"* **J.S. Bach**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Introit

*Call to Worship

Leader: The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.
People: Teach us your paths as we wait on your coming promise.
 Leader: The heavens are speaking; your kingdom is arriving.
People: Strengthen our hearts as we wait on your coming promise.
 Leader: The world is turning; new life is appearing.
People: Keep us alert as we wait on your coming promise.
 Leader: We worship you with waiting hearts this day.
People: Fill us with hope in this season. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

God of darkness, in these days marked by cold air and growing night, gather us in your secret place of waiting. Remind us that the dark is not empty. Show us where new life is being formed. Reveal to us the fertile grounds of our waiting, that we might bear witness to your incarnation among us, both now and in the days to come. Amen.

***Hymn** *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates "* #8

Lighting of the Advent Candle **Jody Shumaker**

One: Faith, hope and love,
People: By these three gifts we live,
 One: Given by God, received in the Spirit, learned from Christ.
People: Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, whose faith, hope and love carry them through good times and bad, we gather at Advent in a festival of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of God in Jesus Christ, until he comes again.
 One: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

The 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 and our greatest joy, to give you thanks and praise O Lord our God.... *(the leader continues)*.... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:
People: 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.
 Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord *(the leader continues)* With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. According to his commandment:
People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.
 Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us *(the leader continues)* Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

People: Why do we light the first candle?

One: The first candle is called the prophecy candle. This candle reminds us of the promises of God in the Old Testament that foretold the coming of Jesus Christ. The first candle also represents hope – hope in the coming light of Emmanuel, God with us.

(The first candle is lit at this time)

One: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of prophecy and hope. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. In this season we prepare and wait for the coming of our Lord. We have hope in His coming just as the Israelites had so long ago. We take hope in the words of the prophet Isaiah: “God did awesome things that we did not expect; God came down, and the mountains trembled before Him.” God continues to do awesome things. Let us prepare as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

One: Let us pray:

People: **Gracious God, let all who are discouraged take heart in this light. It is both in suffering and in celebration that we hope. Let us not close ourselves to hope when it seems naïve or is too painful. And let us refuse to call any place or time or person hopeless. For this is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of hope. Amen.**

Hymn **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** v. 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear as though there were no grace. Forgive us Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us into your truth, and teach us your paths for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

(Please spend some time in silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri **“Glory Be To The Father”** #579

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.

***The Peace**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayers of the People

Anthem **“Love Came Down at Christmas”**

Children’s Sermon **Rev. Philip A. Beck**

*Hymn **“My Lord! What a Morning”** #449

Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson	Jeremiah 33:14-26	p. 903
New Testament Lesson	1 Thessalonians 3:9-3	p. 249
Gospel Lesson	Luke 21:25-36	p. 104

Sermon **“Alert”** **Rev. Philip A. Beck**

*Apostles Creed (Unison)

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.

Announcements

Dedication of Tithes and Gifts to the Lord

Offertory **“Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us”** **Wold**

*Doxology **“Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”** #592

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Hymn **“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”** #5

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord’s Table