

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes a covenant with all believers, First Presbyterian Church intends to be an inclusive place of spiritual growth for all people. All persons are welcomed into this fellowship and membership regardless of age, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic or racial identity, economic or educational status, or political affiliation.

Order of Worship

28 November 2021

1st Sunday of Advent

Prayer of Preparation

*Faithful God, your promises stand
unshaken through all generations.*

Renew us in hope,

that we may be awake and alert

watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,

our judge and savior,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit

Christ is Coming

Macduff/Neander

Advent Candle Lighting

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ
with all the faithful of every time and place:

With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,

we await the promised salvation of the Lord,

and look for the coming of the one

who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth?

Candle lighting

Sung Response from Hymn 106 v.1

Prepare the way, O Zion,

your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley

a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory,

foretold in sacred story.

**O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.
Alleluia!

Anthem

People, Look East

Farjeon/French tune
arr. Rowlett

Confession

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.**

(We pause for a time of silent confession)

**Show us the signs of your coming,
that we may stand before you, the Son of Man,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

Matthew 22:37-39

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the first commandment. And a second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Prayer for Illumination

Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Anna Pinckney Straight

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of color to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied. We walk with God, guided by the light of God's loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfilment of God's promises, for the time when the darkness will hold no fear and the light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God's peace will reign forever. Amen.

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Members of the Daybreak and Sanctuary Choirs

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