

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.

Anthem *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Coffin/1690

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Postlude *People, Look East* Lasky

If you have not already done so, please place your offering in the marked basket nearest the exit you use. We look forward to seeing you again next week.

A special thank you to our ushers!

Organist: Vance Harper Jones

Ensemble: Betsy Conzelman, Bill Harris, Pat K. Rowlett, Ava Smith, Erica Smith, David Taylor

Trusting that God's grace embraces and makes 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.



"Madonna of the Magnificat," Sandro Botticelli, 1483, Uffizi Gallery, Florence, Italy, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

6 December 2020
2nd Sunday in Advent

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1817

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Building Community ▪ Transforming Lives ▪ Engaging the World

Order of Worship

Prayer of Preparation

God of Advent, you are our heart's home. Your home is safe, loving, and eternal, but so many of your children are trapped in unsafe homes. You chose to incarnate yourself into a family that had little else but love on the night you were born. Rescue us from the danger of being obsessed with ourselves so that we can see the need and offer your hope to others around us. Draw us closer to your light as we draw closer to Christmas. Amen.

Welcome

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude *Lost in the Night* Nelson

Advent Liturgy Based on Luke 1:46-55

Candle Lighting Ava Smith

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ, joining our voices with the joyful song of his mother, Mary.

Ensemble (Hymn 100, v. 2 and refrain)

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
For you, O Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Anthem *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Weissel/1778

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, we try to tell You what is best for us and our world instead of seeking Your eternal wisdom and guidance in prayer. We seek greatness and power by worldly standards and fail to hear Your call to serve the poor and wounded around us. Forgive us and give us the strength and courage to become Your servants anew. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Summary of the Law

“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.’” Matthew 22:37-39

Prayer of Illumination

Lesson Mark 13:32-37
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon *Something Is Happening Over There*
The Rev. Edward Bellis

***Affirmation of Faith** 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,