



# First Presbyterian

## CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

December 18, 2022

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**JESUS IS OUR LOVE**

*\*Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

### **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Angel Medley

The Handbell Choir; arr. Osman

*Includes Angels from the Realms of Glory; Angels We Have Heard on High;  
and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia, the Christ Child, the Word Made Flesh, comes!

**We wait to meet the babe in Bethlehem!**

Let us throw off our distractions and allow the chaos to settle.

**We watch for the signs and listen to the messengers.**

Let us be awed in anticipation for Love Incarnate comes.

**Alleluia, the Christ Child comes!**

\*HYMN 41 (V.1-3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O Come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Larry & Peg Opthof

Each week of Advent we light candles on this Advent Wreath. As these lights grow brighter, we wait in growing expectation to celebrate that God's Beloved is to be born for all. The candle of this fourth week of Advent is a candle of love. The flame of this candle reminds us of the love that came to this world when Jesus was born. Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love."

Let us pray:

God, you have so loved us all that you became flesh and blood and were born among us. Thank you that you want to bring love to every person and place in this creation. We thank you for the love you have brought to us. We now pray for the people we love who are in our hearts this morning. We pray for every person and place which is in need of your loving power. Trusting in your wondrous name, we celebrate your birth and your promise of unending love. Amen.

#### **WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD**

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Living God, Love Incarnate, we confess that we are far from perfect. To you who are everything, we acknowledge that we are lacking. Child of the manger, we say we want to be loving. But we admit that we prefer to be sentimental rather than sacrificial in how we love. Hear us now as we confess our faults and ask your help to love more deeply not only in this season but every day.**

*Silent Prayer*

**Amen.**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone. We are loved. In Christ, we are accepted for who we are now. We are set free of the past. We are given the promise of tomorrow.

#### \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

John 3:16

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.**  
So that everyone who believes in Him would not be lost.  
**Everyone who believes in Him will have everlasting life.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-4

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Awaken and Prepare Us  
Incorporating Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

text: Frombach; music: Hayes

Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
For the light of Your saving Son.  
We look for the light, the light of the world,  
The light of the Promised One.  
Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
For the love of Your living Son.  
We wait for Your love, for Your love to appear,  
The love of the Chosen One.

Prepare us for the Promised One,  
The Chosen One, Emmanuel.  
Prepare us for the presence of God.  
Ready our hearts for Him to dwell.

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
For the gift of Your giving Son.  
We watch for Your gift, for Your gift of hope,  
The gift meant for ev'ryone.

Prepare us for the Promised One,  
The Chosen One, Emmanuel.  
Prepare us for the presence of God.  
Ready our hearts for Him to dwell.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us respond to the goodness of God with our tithes and offerings.

*Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. Amen.**

### \*SUNG RESPONSE

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man I would do my part;  
Yet what I can, I give Him, give my heart.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### 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.**

## WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

### \*HYMN 12 (V.1-4)

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing to day:  
Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ding, Dong Merrily on High

arr. Callahan

*The flowers on the communion table are given by Jason and Andrew Lesonick.*

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Dahlia Opthof-Cordaro, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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*Each Sunday we sing hymns taken from the blue hymnal provided for you in the pew where you are seated. Though we print the lyrics to the hymns in the bulletin, we encourage you to turn to the hymnal so you can also read the accompanying music.*

**John 1:1-4**

Before the world began, the Word was there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was there with God in the beginning. Everything was made through him, and nothing was made without him. In him there was life. That life was a light for the people of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not defeated it.