



CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**November 26, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Gathering Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

**† Call to Worship (From Micah 5)**

Pastor: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,

**People: out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.**

Pastor: He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

**Unison: And he will be our peace.**

**† Hymn: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne**

**† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer**

## First Scripture Readings

### Romans 13:8-14 Responsive

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup> **The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”** <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

<sup>11</sup> And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

<sup>12</sup> **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.** <sup>13</sup> **Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.**

<sup>14</sup> Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

### Titus 2:11-14 Responsive

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

<sup>12</sup> **It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** <sup>13</sup> **while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,**

<sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### Gloria Patri

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.

### † Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Glorify Thy Name

D. Atkins/arr. Mark Hayes

Arr: Yuta Sugano

### † Doxology

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

## Second Scripture Readings

### 2 Peter 1:3-11 Responsive

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

**<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.**

<sup>5</sup>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; <sup>6</sup>and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; <sup>7</sup>and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

**<sup>8</sup>For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins**

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, <sup>11</sup>and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### 1 Thessalonians 3:1—4:13 Responsive

<sup>3:1</sup>So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. <sup>2</sup> We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you

know quite well that we are destined for them.

**<sup>4</sup>In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. <sup>5</sup>For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.**

<sup>6</sup>But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

**<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. <sup>8</sup>For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup>May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup>May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.**

<sup>4:1</sup>As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. <sup>2</sup>For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**<sup>3</sup>It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup>that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, <sup>5</sup>not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup>and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister.**

The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. <sup>7</sup>For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup>Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

**<sup>9</sup>Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup>And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia.**

Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup>and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup>so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

**<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.**

This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

**Sermon: Are You Spiritually Maturing?**

Dr. James N. McGuire

**Pastoral Prayer**

**† Hymn: When the Sun**

**Responsive Litany (2 Peter 3: 14,17,18)**

**Pastor:** So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation.

**People:** Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.

**Unison:** But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

Dr. James N, McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

**Benediction**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers**

Dr. James N. McGuire, Pastor

Yuta Sugano, Musician

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; a  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**Musician: Yuta Sukan**

**In Need of Prayer**

Rosie, Linda's daughter, grieving  
Brenda, for good health  
Ed, for mobility, back pain  
Nancy, health, sustaining grace  
Judy C, full healing of her leg  
Maureen, dear friend of Lisa  
Kay, continued faith, poor prognosis  
Raven, child with seizures  
Pray for caregivers of those who are ill  
Brenda's nephew and his friends for  
encouragement and better jobs, and  
For nephew Glenn: serious illness  
College students, for continuing faith  
Jennet family, illness and deaths  
Linda S, breathing concerns  
Janet Evans, confusion (in AZ)  
Alicia, niece of Carolyn, cancer  
Marie, employment and comfort  
Bodnar grandson, arm fractures  
Jen: healing ankle, father's chemo,  
friend in Israel

**In Need of Prayer**

Bryan, nephew of Terras family, cancer diagnosis  
Lisa, Pastor's niece, newly discovered cancer  
Glad, for strength and sustaining grace  
Benita, improved blood counts and strength  
Domingo, needs transplants; LaShell, cancer  
Sean's aunt & uncle, heavy caregiving  
Debbie, Pam's friend, improved, more chemo  
Judy V. and family in Florida  
Lance, brother-in-law of Isles family  
Sue, sister-in-law of Isles family  
Ron, age 34, heart failure, needs heart transplant  
Sarah, for strength to carry her load  
Pastor Scott McKee, serious cancer  
Family of Rusty, dear friend of Ron I, sudden death  
Willy, 76, needs Jesus  
Krystal's friend, Lolita, with esophageal cancer.  
Sue, nodules in lungs, diagnosis and treatment  
Donna's family, Dan, recent heart surgery.  
  
Nick and Larissa, foster care of children, adjustments.

General Fund giving this week: \$2,849

Total giving to date in Nov: \$11,160

Thank you for your giving to the Lord.

As the Middle Eastern war continues, it has spilled over  
to Lebanon. Please pray for Robbie and Joyce who are  
involved in children and family work, feeding children  
and providing care so parents can work.

**Heidelberg Catechism Q. 2.** What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort? **A.**  
Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins  
and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such a deliverance.

## **Looking Ahead**

Christmas Eve this year is on a Sunday. Instead of having two services that day we will meet together to celebrate the birth of our Savior at our normal, Sunday morning time, 10:30 A.M. The service will include communion and the candle-light circle and singing of Silent Night as is our custom. Please encourage your families to come with you and participate in this glorious celebration of Christ's birth.

## **Decorating the Sanctuary**

If you would like to purchase a lovely poinsettia plant for decorating the sanctuary for Christmas, please fill out the enclosed form and see Linda Davis. You may give it in honor or in memory of someone and take it home after the Christmas service. The cost is \$10 (cash preferred). Deadline is December 17

## **Angel Tree, A Ministry of Prison Fellowship.**

**Under the ministry of Brenda Cook and Cheri Boone, we have the opportunity to bless the lives of children of incarcerated parents. It involves gifts for children given in the name of the parent. Please speak with Brenda or Cheri for details.**

