



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

THE 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

Lighting the First Advent Candle

The Candle of Prophecy
Jack & Senie Engebretson

First Scripture Readings
Exodus 20:1-17 Responsive

¹And God spoke all these words:

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³**“You shall have no other gods before me.**

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷**“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.**

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²**“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.**

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴**“You shall not commit adultery.**

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶**“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Revelation 2:8-11 Responsive

⁸“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

⁹**I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.**

I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

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:

Pianist Ellen Van Noord

† 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

Ephesians 5:21-33 Responsive

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife

loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Luke 16:10-18 Responsive

¹⁰ “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?”

¹³ **“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”**

¹⁴ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. ¹⁵ He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.

¹⁶ **“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. ¹⁷ It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.**

¹⁸ “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Raising the Standard
Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: When the Sun

Responsive Litany (from Colossians 1:15–20 ESV)

Pastor: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

People: For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Pastor: And he is the head of the body, the church, He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Unison: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Announcements of Interest

Our Thanksgiving Dinner last Sunday proved to be a delight for all as we dined together again. We thank Carolyn Sharpe and her helpers for arranging for the delicious food and lovely tablescapes. We continue to sing in our hearts, "Now Thank We All Our God."

Angel Tree, A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

The Angel Tree has been decorated with paper angels for you to choose for your gift giving to a child whose parent is incarcerated. There is a limited number, but you also have the option to select a child on-line and provide the money for the care-giver to shop for that child's needs/desires.

Below is the link to get to the Angel Tree children for 2022. When it opens up you will get a **welcome to virtual Angel Tree**.

The 2022 link to all virtual children in United States is:

<https://vat.angeltreetool.org/60b37164-3824-4656-b1da-bf774cdf352e/children>

Since we cannot put a live link in a bulletin, you will need to copy the link and put it in your browser. It should take you where you need to go. Then you will see 2 small boxes pop up. Click the box on **left** to continue. Then you can select your **state** and **gender** of the child. The cost will be \$25, using a credit card. Thank you for volunteering.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias can be ordered for decorating our sanctuary. Please see Caroline Milan for details. Cost is \$10 (cash please).

Plan Ahead

Yes, we will have a **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** on Saturday, December 24 at 4 pm. Invite your friends and family to join you for this service of scripture and song ending with a circle of candles and "Silent Night."

Return on Sunday Morning to rejoice again that God sent his Son to be our Savior.

To our visitors: We hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome here among us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

In Need of Prayer

Elain Clay, recovery from stroke
Care of Bunny Rector, new residence
Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney poor
Jen Freese's uncle Skip, training Sasha
Janet Young, assisted living
Alberta Weaver, home
Reginia Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
Scott, son of Jim and Patty MacKenzie
For those who grieve:
Bunny Rector, husband
Kelly Rende, wife
Ellen Dorman, husband
Sam Hutson, wife
Linda Szczepanek, multiple deaths in family
Engebretsons, daughter, sister
Hartigs, son
Teresa Lisowski, mother
Electrica Woods, sister
Bill Sackett, grief for Marylyn

In Need of Prayer

Ray Boone, chemotherapy every 3 weeks
Benita Puzzuoli, health, for diagnosis and treatment
Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, young mom, cancer
John Engebretson, hip surgery 11/23
Benita Puzzuoli, diagnosis and treatment
Darlene Little, heart problems, dialysis
Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy
Chris, stage 4 cancer, neighbor of Linda Szczepanek
Dan, friend of Linda Szczepanek
Linda Johnson's mother, advanced dementia
Sue Isles, relative of Ron & Karen, recurrent cancer/chemo
Delilah, young relative of Isles family
Domingo, needs transplants, LaShell, cancer.
Emily, friend of Isles, salvation, employment
Rachel Hobson, deliverance from worldly ways (Sean)
Krystal Murphy, co-worker, Ken for back surgery
Krystal's cousin, heart valve surgery
Don Rende's brother, Bob, failing health
Ellen, friend of Sue Work, lost home in Fl. Hurricane
Katelyn, 24 y/o died, Pray for mother, Sheila, sister
Karen, friend of Judy Carr, aggressive cancer, 13y/o son, upset

Audio Sermons can be heard on the church website: <http://christ-presbyterianchurch.org>

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Donna Whiting, whose sister, Judy, died on November 8 in Alabama.

General Fund giving last week: \$5,585
Giving to date in November: \$13,016

Our sincere sympathy to Ralph and Pia Klein on the death of his father, Fredrick Klein.

Heidelberg Catechism Q.87. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and impenitent ways? **A.** By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person not drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like is going to inherit the kingdom of God.