

# **United Presbyterian Church**

**November 29, 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**11:00am**

## **WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

Thanks for worshiping with us. Whether you are with us from the pew or with us via your computer screen, we are so glad you're here. Remember, worship is about God and we focus our eyes and hearts on the One who is before all things. At the same time, we know that when we gather, we receive gracious gifts and experience the love of Christ as one church.

To prepare for worship, read the Words of Preparation; read and reflect upon the Scripture passage for today. Be intentional about connecting with God in your worship.

### **Words for Preparation**

*In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

*(Office of Theology and Worship PCUSA)*

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 1 without refrain)

Lighting the Candle

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (refrain only)

## **Call to Worship**

Come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 2:5

## **Children's Message**

**Hymn** No. 1 vs. 1, 2 &3

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

## **Call to Confession**

Assured that God hears our repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth,  
confessing our sins to God and one another.

*(Period of silence for personal confession)*

## **Prayer of Confession**

Lord of hosts, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plight of your people, taking from Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need or kept peace within our own families. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. Amen.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

"You are called to belong to Jesus Christ." For the sake of the One God promised to send, named as God's Son, who died, was raised, and through whom we receive grace, God forgives you all your sins. You are God's beloved, called to be saints.

Thanks be to God!

## **Gloria Patri**

**Anthem**

**"Dona Nobis Pacem"**

**arr. Barbra Wallace**

## **Prayers of People and Lord's Prayer**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts—a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading**

### Isaiah 64:1-9 (NRSV)

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

64:2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

64:3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

64:4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

64:5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

64:7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

64:9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

## I Corinthians 1:3-9 (New Revised Standard Version)

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus,

1:5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind--

1:6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you--

1:7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1:9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

### **Sermon**

Rev. Candice Womack

### **Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts**

All that we have is the Lord's. All that we may become and receive is in God's hands. For the sake of the joy that is ours when our bonds grow deep with others, let us give generously for the well-being of the world.

## **Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings**

*(Please use this time for silent prayer and reflection as you consider ways to offer your life, your gifts, time, and commitment to God. You may give online at [upctx.org/giving](http://upctx.org/giving) OR as you enter or exit the church sanctuary today. There are two offering boxes available. One is located at the Narthex and the other along the Commons hallway. A bowl for the Noisy Offering will also be placed at each location)*

## **Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, you bless us with many gifts, you retrieve us from despair and fear, you visit us with surprising proclamations, and you intend for us good things. We thank you for your steadfast love, for sending signs of assurance, and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need, reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

**Hymn No: 6 vs 1, 2 &3**

**“ Jesus Comes with Clouds Decending”**

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction**

**“Go Now In Peace”**

**Postlude**

Disciples: All Who Trust in Jesus Christ  
 Ministers: All Members of the Congregation  
 Pastor: Rev. Candice Richey Womack  
 Liturgist: Bob Mudie  
 Safety Team Members: Jerald Hicks and John Hill  
 Music Director: Dominick Stephenson  
 Organist: Cynthia Hibbetts  
 Family Ministries Coordinator: Heather Lind  
 Administrative Assistant: Pat De Mayo  
 Nursery Attendants: Martha Hill, J. R. Hill

**THE SESSION**

Moderator: Rev. Candice Richey Womack  
 Session Clerk: Stephanie Hogue

Class of 2020  
 Kathy Derby  
 Virginia Rutherford  
 George Warren

Class of 2021  
 John Hill  
 John Wasson  
 Jerald Hicks  
 Stephanie Hogue

Class of 2022  
 Jessica Morgan  
 Ray Lancaster  
 David Williams  
 Bob Mudie

**TRUSTEES**

Jim Rutherford (2020)  
 Heath Jarvis (2021)  
 Polly Adams (2022)

MONDAY November 30	TUESDAY December 1	WEDNESDAY December 2	THURSDAY December 3	FRIDAY December 4	SATURDAY December 5	SUNDAY December 5
		5:15-6:10 pm Scholarship Singers  6:15-7:10 pm Handbells	4:30 pm Yoga Class			Second Sunday of Advent  11:00 am Worship Service