First Presbyterian Church
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

The Service for the Lord's Day — November 29, 2026
First Sunday of Advent
Insisting on Hope This Advent

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!
We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.
When you see an asterisk *, please rise in body or spirit, however you are comfortable.
Children are welcome in worship! A nursery is also available for infants and toddlers in Room 119.

We Gather to Worship

PRELUDE — *Gnossienne No. 1* — Erik Satie

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE
CHRISTMAS BOXES — Jim Tack

CHIME

INTROIT — *Prepare the Way of the Lord* — Jacques Berthier
Sanctuary Singers — arr. Warren Puffer Jones

*CALL TO WORSHIP / LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - *Isaiah 2:4*
Doug and Mary Su Forsman

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
People: Advent means coming.
Leader: We are preparing ourselves for the days
People: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;
Leader: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ADVENT HYMN SING

HYMN 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

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.

HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

HYMN 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

HYMN 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

HYMN 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* STUTTGART

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. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison) Travis Johnson

God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, for he is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of promises and possibilities, we admit that we color the world according to our own limited vision. We are often unjust in our judgments and faithless in our relationships. We are haunted by sins we have not confessed. Hear us as we entrust them to your forgiving care. Help us to let go of our transgressions, to renew our covenant with you, and to live constructively with one another. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, whose coming among us we await with great expectation. (silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

To this peace we are called as members of a single body.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Gloria Patri* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

To God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit Three in one.
May every tongue and nation raise An endless song of thankful praise. Amen.

We Proclaim God's Word

DISCOVERY TIME Children are invited forward for a special message. Siobhan Morava

Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image;
those on the floor facing the steps will not.

Afterwards, a nursery is provided in Room 119 for children four and under.
Children—5 years old to 4th grade—are invited to attend Children's Church in Room 215.
Parents may pick up children after worship from those locations.

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.

ANTHEM *I Shall Know Him When He Comes* Douglas E. Wagner

Sanctuary Singers Charlotte Lee

I shall know Him when He comes, not with sound of pipe or drum, but by the holy harmony which now His coming makes in me. He shall wear no royal robe, or a crown of precious gold, but He my Lord, my King shall be always, ever there for me. He shall not in castle warm live in splendor, safe from harm. But in a manger crude He'll sleep, warmed by the breath of cows and sheep. Come, Lord Jesus, tarry not. Find in me a resting spot. My heart is open, come dwell within. Let life be born in me again. By the holy harmony which His coming makes in me, I shall know Him when He comes.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Lamentations 3:52-57 (pg. 767)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO *Come Light Our Hearts* Sandra McCracken

Puffer Jones, baritone

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait. Truly our hope is in you. O Lord of life, our only hope, your radiance shines on all who look to You in the dark. Emmanuel come, come light our hearts. Oh joy above all other loves, in you we find more than enough. We come as we are; O heal and restore, come light our hearts.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:5-13 (pg. 56)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON In the Time of Herod, Rev. John C. McKinnon

We Long for God to Break In

We Respond to God's Word

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — The 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, 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.

*HYMN (INSERT) — *In the Time of Herod* — CRANHAM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE — *Advent Amen* — STILL, STILL, STILL

Sanctuary Singers

OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY — *Gymnopédie No. 1* — Erik Satie

Seth Johnson, horn

*DOXOLOGY — PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go in God's Name

*HYMN 88 — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* — VENI EMMANUEL

(stanzas 2, 4, 6, and 7)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE — *Riu, Riu, Chiu* — arr. Richard Lind

Give to FPC today!

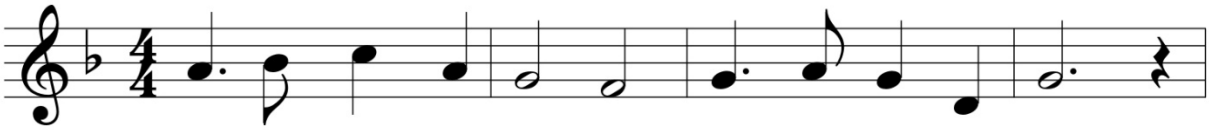
SCAN ME

In the Time of Herod

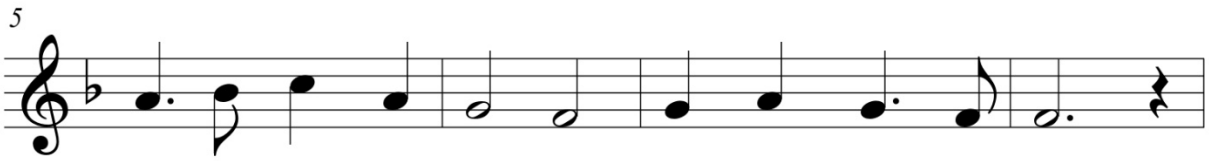
CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

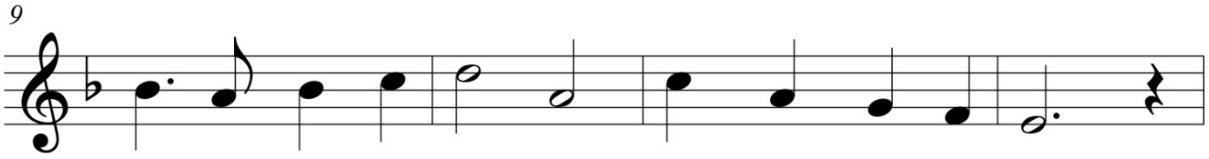
Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



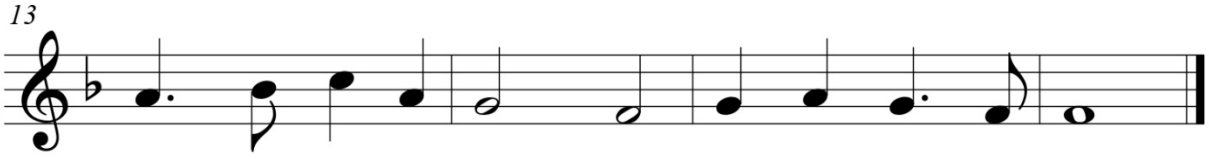
In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep-ing in
Pierc-ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break-ing through the clouds
Hope - less-ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

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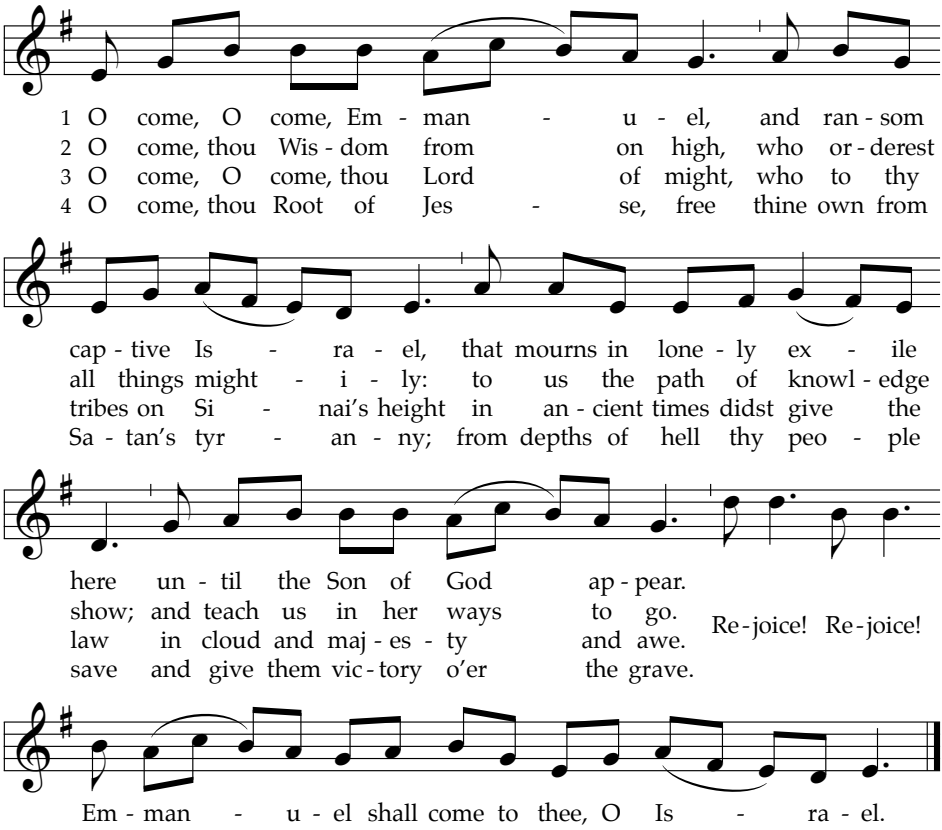
88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)
Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)
Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)
Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)
Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite
MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988
Music Arr. © 1990 John Weaver

VENI EMMANUEL
LM with refrain

Winter Coat Drive

Help keep our neighbors warm this winter! We are collecting gently used men's coats, sizes large and up, to benefit Church Under the Bridge. Donations may be dropped off in the Narthex or Reception Center today.

Today

Sunday School Classes

- Evergreen | Room B-14 (9:30 a.m.)
- New Beginnings | Fireside Room (9:30 a.m.)
- Builders | Room B-8 (9:45 a.m.)
- High School | Youth Lounge (9:45 a.m.)
- Middle School | Room B-10 (9:45 a.m.)
- Children | Room 213 (9:45 a.m.)

Coffee & Cookies Fellowship | 9:30–10:55 a.m.

Coffee, cookies, and fellowship are available in the Reception Center every Sunday before worship!

Sunday Worship | 11:00 a.m.

ADVENTure | 12:00 p.m.

Kick off the Advent season with our annual ADVENTure! Make an Advent wreath with fresh greens, and we'll provide the candles needed for weekly candle lighting throughout the season.

Children and youth will also have a Christmas painting opportunity and take part in a Christmas scavenger hunt around the church. Lunch will be provided. Come celebrate the beginning of Advent with us!

Memorial Ornament Tree Service | 2:00 p.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary for a special service honoring the memory of loved ones who have died and celebrating the love that continues to connect us. You are invited to bring an ornament in memory of a loved one to hang on our memorial tree during the service.

The tree will remain in the Sanctuary through Christmas, after which ornaments will be available to take home. Together, we will give thanks for those we love and celebrate the hope we have in God's eternal love.

Upcoming Events

Bridge Group — Mondays | 6:00–8:00 p.m. & Wednesdays | 9:00–11:30 a.m.

We meet in Room B-10 in the basement on Mondays from 6:00–8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00–11:30 a.m. Whether you've never played, are returning after a break, or just want to join a friendly bridge group, we've got a spot for you!

Contact Barbara Charlet at barbara.charlet@outlook.com or David Ligon at david.m.ligon@gmail.com for more information.

Evening Prayer Service — Wednesdays | 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m., followed by an Evening Prayer Service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. This short worship service features sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday and helping us transition into a restful night.

After the service, we have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00–6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal — Wednesdays | 6:30–8:00 p.m.

The choir rehearses at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining, please contact Puffer Jones at puffer@fpcokc.org.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesdays | 6:00 p.m.

Our free yoga class is available weekly on Wednesdays! Angela Rose leads the hour-long class in the Rec Room in the basement. All skill levels are welcome.

Christmas Food Boxes
Friday, December 4 & Saturday, December 5 | 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Help The Urban Mission prepare Christmas Food Boxes for families in our community!

- On Friday, December 4, volunteers are needed to set up the assembly line and prepare boxes.
- On Saturday, December 5, volunteers will pack 260 food boxes and hygiene bags.

Contact Jim Tack (jtack@robertsonwilliams.com) to RSVP or for more information.

First Sunday Lunch — Sunday, December 6 | 12:00 p.m.

After worship, we'll gather in Watchorn Hall for fellowship and to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Junebug Catering.

Menu: Soup & sandwiches, a Christmas cookie bar, hot chocolate and apple cider, and cookie decorating for the kids.

Priscilla Circle — Tuesday, December 8 | 10:00 a.m.

Meeting in Room 122 on the 1st floor of the church.

Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, December 8 | 1:30 p.m.

Meeting at Mary Ann Boucher's house.

Abigail Circle — Friday, December 11 | 6:00 p.m.

Location TBD.

Deacons Out & About: Sparkle — Friday, December 11 | 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the season with the Deacons as we enjoy an evening at Scissortail Park! We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. at Social Capital for fellowship and food before heading into the park around 7:00 p.m. for SPARKLE, the immersive holiday light-walk. This experience features dazzling holiday lights, whimsical scenes, and family-friendly displays winding throughout the park.

Tickets are limited, so sign up today by visiting www.fpcokc.org/sparkle or calling the church office at 405-525-6584. **If you have any questions, please contact Lancelot Duff-Williams (ldw.fpc@gmail.com).**

Tactus: Handel's Messiah — Saturday, December 19 | 7:30 p.m.

Experience Handel's *Messiah* performed in the original Baroque style by professional vocalists and the Tactus Chamber Orchestra. Celebrate the joy of Christmas with beloved choruses and arias, including "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," "Hallelujah," and "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth."

Tickets range from $20 to $50 and are free for K–12 students. For more information, visit tactusensemble.org. *Doors open at 6:15 p.m. The pre-concert talk begins at 7:00 p.m.*

Christmas Pageant — Sunday, December 20 | 11:00 a.m. Worship

Our children and youth will offer their annual Christmas pageant during worship. Join us to celebrate the story of Christ's birth and support the hard work of our young people and those who have helped prepare them.

Christmas Eve Services

Young & Young at Heart Service — Thursday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m.

Our family-friendly Young & Young at Heart Service will take place in the Sanctuary and include the Treble Choir and some of your favorite carols!

Service of Lessons & Carols — Thursday, December 24 | 10:30 p.m.

Our candlelight service of Lessons and Carols is modeled after the service of nine lessons and carols made popular by King's College, Cambridge.

The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir anthems. We hope you can join us for this very special time of worship! (**Prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.**)