



# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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**The Service for the Lord's Day – December 8, 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

***Songs for the Waiting***

**Sermons Inspired by the Carols of Advent**

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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

*Gesu Bambino*

Pietro A. Yon

Isaac Jones, violin

WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

CHIME

INTROIT

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Jacques Berthier

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Warren Puffer Jones

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP / LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - *Isaiah 2:4, 11:6, 35:1***

Leader: We light these candles 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; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Leader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

**All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

\*HYMN 83

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

Wes Howard

**Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**God of fierce compassion, you call us to make our ways straight, yet we get lost down crooked roads of selfish concern. We are to prepare the way for your reign of justice, but we choose easier paths of comfort. Have mercy on us. Forgive us and set us back to work, clearing paths of justice, building highways of peace, and preparing the world for your return. (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.

Cyndi Lockwood

Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image;

those on the floor facing the steps will not.

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.**

# 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

**ANTHEM***See Amid the Winter's Snow*

John Goss

Sanctuary Singers; Isaac Jones, violin

arr. Dan Forrest

*Alleluia! See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever-blessed morn! Hail redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Lo, within a manger lies he who built the lofty skies, he who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 3:1-6 (pg. 60)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.****SOLO***I wonder as I wander*

John Jacob Niles

Ronn Burton, baritone

*I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die for poor ornery people like you and like I... I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing, or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing, he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (pg. 204)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.****SERMON***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Rev. John C. McKinnon

**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 92***While We Are Waiting, Come*

WAITING (Cason)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

RESPONSE

*Advent Amen*

STILL, STILL, STILL

Sanctuary Singers

**OFFERING**

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

(Collection plates are located by the doors as you exit the Sanctuary.)

# 92 While We Are Waiting, Come

1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
 2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
 3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;

while we are wait - ing, come.  
 with power and glo - ry, come.  
 come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,

while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

OFFERTORY

*What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

Isaac Jones, violin

\*PRESENTATION HYMN

*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 82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Improvisation on LLANGLOFFAN* (hymn 357)

John L. Edwards

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given to the glory of God and in appreciation of Dan MacLemore, Darci McKinnon, and Jim Tack for their last minute help in a time of need by a very grateful pastor. Thanks be to God for our companions in Christ.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Anita (& Rick) Edman and Susie (& Michael) Newcombe upon the death of their mother, Nita Christine Wilson, who died on November 30, 2024.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of Life will be held in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 18, at 1:00 p.m. Please keep the friends and family of Nita in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss.

## 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!

### Sanctuary Worship | 11:00 a.m.

### Cookies & Cocoa + Silent Auction | 12:00 p.m.

It's time for our annual Cookies & Cocoa event! The congregation will enjoy cocoa while tasting all the cookies before voting for their favorite. PW's Silent Auction will be going on during Cookies & Cocoa!

Give to  
FPC today!



## Upcoming Events

### **Individual Prayer & Evensong Worship — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.**

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m. and an Evensong service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. Evensong is a short church service, featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

**After service, we'll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Choir members are welcome to arrive early and join us!**

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

Join our Free Yoga Class on Wednesdays! We meet in the Rec Room in the basement. Angela Rose will lead our hour-long class. All skill levels are welcome!

### **PW Circle Meetings**

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

Room 122 on the first floor of the church.

#### **Phoebe Circle — Tuesday, December 10 | 1:30 p.m.**

At Mary Ann Doolen's home.

#### **Abigail Circle — Tuesday, December 17 | 6:00 p.m.**

TBD.

### **Tactus Concert**

#### **Handel: *Messiah* — Sunday, December 15 | 4:00 p.m.**

Experience the majesty of one of the greatest works of all time performed in the original baroque style by professional musicians!

The joy of Christmas comes alive with exciting choruses like “For Unto Us a Child Is Born,” “Glory to God,” and “Hallelujah!” Expressive arias—such as “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” and “He Shall Feed His Flock”—sung by our all-star team of voices with expert accompaniment by the Tactus Chamber Orchestra. (Pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m.)

Tickets are available at [tactusensemble.org/concerts/messiah](https://tactusensemble.org/concerts/messiah). K-12 students are FREE.

**MORE EVENTS ON BACK**

## **Christmas Eve Services**

### **Young & Young at Heart Service — Tuesday, 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 — Tuesday, 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.**)

### **Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 3 | 12:00 p.m.**

FPC-OKC presents Joseph Ripka, Organist Canon Precentor & Director of Music Diocesan Music Missioner at St. Paul's Cathedral of Oklahoma City, in a Music for the Nativity concert. The concert will be followed by a luncheon in Watchorn Hall.

Both the concert and luncheon are FREE, but donations will be accepted. **RSVP for the luncheon by calling 405-525-6584 or emailing [office@fpcokc.org](mailto:office@fpcokc.org).**





# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Help us adorn our Sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one(s). They will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve and included in a listing of memorials and celebrations.

Please submit your order by Friday, December 20.

**Purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) at \$20 each.**

**Requested by \_\_\_\_\_**

**Dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Relationship \_\_\_\_\_**

Please turn your form in to the church office or place it in an offering plate. Pay by cash, check or Venmo (@fpcokc).

In memory of     In honor of     In celebration of