

WELCOME ALL
TO
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



DECEMBER 12, 2021
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 2408 N. NAVARRO ST. | VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church
December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude: Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee

- *Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750*

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you!**

Introit: Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

-*Emily E.S Elliot/Timothy R. Matthews, 2004*

Call to Worship

One: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name
of the most high God.

All: **The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: Proclaim the mercy of the One who comes as one of us.

All: **The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: Trust and do not be afraid.

All: **The Lord is our strength and our salvation.**

One: With joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.

All **The Lord is our strength and our salvation. Hallelujah! Amen.**

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Merciful God,
you come into our midst
longing for communion with us,
becoming one of us.
Break our resistance to life with you,
show us the path toward just relations,
and bring us into your unimaginable peace;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - The Joy Candle or the Shepherds' Candle

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing. *Isaiah 35:1*

***Opening Hymn:** “Angels from the Realm of Glory”

No. 22

***Invitation to Confession** (*unison*)

As John the Baptist called the people to repent,
as Jesus calls us now,
we turn to the one who is both judge and savior,
trusting that repentance opens the door to new life,
and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us.

***Prayer of Confession** (*unison*)

The Lord is near.
In your presence, Holy God,
we confess that we need repentance.
We have broken your commands against idolatry.
We do not live in peace with your creation or your people.
We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid.
Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise,
for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news
and for the sake of all the world. Amen

***Kyrie Eleison** (*unison*)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Pardon**

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you.
Do not worry. Live in peace.
Believe in God, Friends!
Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Gloria Patri** (*unison*)

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.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Word,
you are our guide and ultimate assurance.
By your Holy Spirit,
open us to your promises and commands
and shower us again with the fire of your love. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

P.P. 641-642 in the Old Testament

Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Choir Anthem: Promise to the World

- *Helen Litz/Reginald Litz, 1984*

Second Scripture Reading: Luke 3:7-18

P. 60 in the New Testament

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon: What Should We Do?

Rev. Jim DeMent

Luke 3:10: “And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

Silence and meditation

Congregational Hymn “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

No. 10

Service of Ordination and Installation

A LITANY OF GIFTS

One: There are varieties of gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**All: There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

One: God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

**All: To each is given a gift of the Spirit
to be used for the common good.**

One: Together we are the body of Christ,
and individually members of it.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

THE ELDERS TO BE ORDAINED AND INSTALLED COME FORWARD

Class of 2024

Francis Byrne

Patrick Patterson

Rebecca Richter

*AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*PROFESSION OF FAITH BY THE CHURCH

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*** THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR RULING ELDERS

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATION

*** PRAYER OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

*For the Laying on of the Hands,
all Ruling Elders come forward and stand behind the
candidates who are to be ordained.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

DECLARATION OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION

WELCOME

CHARGE TO THE NEWLY ORDAINED AND INSTALLED

CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”

- H.P. Smith, 1874

*** Doxology** (*unison*)

*** Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us,
we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor
to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope;
for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*** Closing Hymn:** “Lead On, O King Eternal”

No. 447

*** Charge and Benediction**

*** Choral Benediction:** “The Blessing”

- R. Wyatt, 2018

Postlude: “Isaiah the Prophet, Has Written of Old”

- American Melody

We have reproduced below the lyrics of the hymns selected for this morning's worship service. All the hymns below are either in the public domain or have been reproduced, under license, from *The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville: 1990) or from Christian Copywrite Licensing International (ccli.com). If you are worshipping with us from home, we encourage you to sing along. Follow the verses in this order:

Verse 1
Verse 2

Verse 3
Verse 4

Angels from the Realm of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:

All creation, join in praising God
The Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin:
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
To let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

What Child It This?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Chorus:

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

