



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, pastor

Larry Schlosser, liturgist

December 8, 2024

Andrew Morris, organist

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate.

Introit/Lighting the Advent Candle/Call to Worship

Preparing Our Hearts

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Chancel Choir

Adrian Hartsough, director

Westminster Ringers, Joy Laird, flute, Paul Laird, cello, Justin Harbaugh, clarinet, Logan Bach, bassoon,

bobbie frances mcdonald and Joshua Bryant, Candle Lighters

One: For centuries, we have struggled to watch and wait for God's salvation.

All: We are preparing our hearts for the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

One: We have been restless and conflicted, yearning for the Messiah.

All: We are preparing our hearts for the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

One: We have been wandering in vain, searching for a peace that transcends earthly understanding.

All: We are preparing our hearts for the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

One: Send us a savior, Lord; Our hearts await the Peace that on the Savior can provide.

All: We are preparing our hearts for the Peace our Redeemer will bring.

Sing: He will come bringing peace.

* Hymn of Praise

People, Look East (verses 1,4,5)

BESANÇON

Glory to God #105

* Call To Confession

Larry Schlosser, liturgist

One: Family of faith, one of the ways we find joy in a weary world is through connection. The prayer of confession is a place of connection with God. In the prayer of confession we get to come before God with our full, messy, honest selves. And in the midst of that mess, God tells us that we are loved, claimed, and forgiven. There is no greater joy than that. So join me in the prayer of confession, not because you have to, but because you can. Let us connect with our merciful God. Let us pray:

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Larry Schlosser, liturgist

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity. We lean into fear. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness

Larry Schlosser, liturgist

Faith family, I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy. So trust this; believe this: You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve. Find joy in that. Amen!

* **Passing the Peace** Larry Schlosser, liturgist
One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI
*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Children's Moment Judy Wilson

Prayer of Illumination Larry Schlosser, liturgist
Holy God, We know that you are near. We know that you are standing at the door, you are running down the driveway, you are inviting us in— into your Word, into relationship, and deeper into joy. So as we approach your Word, O God, we pray: do not let us pass you by. Do not allow distraction or doubt to get the best of us. Do not let us walk down this road without you. Instead, give us the wisdom to turn and run your way. Give us the wisdom to hear your wisdom, to let it sink into our bones and change us. With hope and gratitude, we pray, amen.

A Reading of the Hebrew Prophets Isaiah 40:1-11 Larry Schlosser, liturgist

Anthem *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* Chancel Choir
ADRIAN HARTSOUGH, arr. Andrew Morris, piano
Justin Harbaugh, clarinet, Logan Bach, bassoon

Gospel Reading Luke 1:24-45

Sermon "Finding Joy" Pastor Helen

Hymn *Away in a Manger* or music from Larkin Oertel **Glory to God #115**
MUELLER

Prayer of the People and the Lord's Prayer (as translated by the Maori people)

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe;
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world;
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings;
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Offering *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* Chancel Choir
Text by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Music by John B. Calkin/Dennis Allen
Justin Harbaugh, clarinet, Logan Bach, bassoon, Andrew Morris, piano

* **Doxology**

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)

Glory to God #144

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what I can, I give Him, give my heart*

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope.

And when joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another. So together we say: I will share my joy when yours runs out. You will share your joy when mine runs out. And in doing so, we will both see God. Amen.

* **Hymn**

Joy to the World
ANTIOCH

Glory to God #134

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! Whether you are joining us virtually or in-person; we are happy to have you with us anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **We received word that Dee Link**, former member of FPC, died on November 25 in Corrales, NM.
- **Michael Devlin** who has a multiple myeloma diagnosis and waiting for a treatment plan.
- **John Bell** had hip surgery Dec. 2. Prayers for good healing.
- **Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky**, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC**, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- **Tim Dutcher, son of Lois and David Dutcher**, had a kidney transplant. Last week Tim was hospitalized while adjusting medicine to support the transplant.
- **Susan and Pat** who have health concerns.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.

- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **Tanja Rounds** is dealing with a brain tumor. Prayers appreciated.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, is healing following cancer surgery.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **Prayers for those** facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.
- **My heartfelt thanks** to everyone who communicated their sympathy and support following the death of my daughter Allegra. Your cards and notes, your spoken words, and your prayers have meant a lot during a very difficult time. Jim Woelfel

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Mark Schoneweis, Larry Schlosser, Mark Shiflett, Larry Maxey

Greeters: Diana Schoneweis

Securing the Offering: Jeff Southard, Melinda Fischer

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Linda Longino

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Birthdays in the Congregation

December 10	December 12
Wayne Hathaway	Linda Upstill
December 11	December 15
Jim Rumsey	Mark Oertel

Calendar

December 8

9:15 am	Sunday School – Children and Youth
9:15 am	Advent Series with Pastor Helen
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Lunch on Sunday Group
3:00 pm	Lawrence Community Bell Concert
3:00 pm	Youth Holiday Party

December 9

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den - Schwaller
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

December 10

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
2:30 pm	Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting
6:30 pm	Session Meeting
7:00 pm	Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting

December 11

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

December 12

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
11:00 am	Family Ministry Meeting
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
6:30 pm	PW Leah Circle

December 13

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
7:00 pm	Music Clubhouse Recital

December 14

8:30 am	Music Clubhouse Recital
10:30 am	PW Winter Gathering
2:00 pm	Girl Scout CPR Training
2:30 pm	Laura Hrivnak Studio Recital

December 15

9:15 am	Children and Youth Sunday School
9:15 am	Advent Series with Pastor Helen
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Christmas Dinner

Children and Youth

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- 6th – 12th Grades – Room 11

Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to join us.

- **December**
 - FUN: youth Christmas Party at the Hoover-Elo house on Sunday December 8th
- **January**
 - MISSION: January 2nd Youth at Presbyterian Manor
 - MISSION, SERVICE, FUN and FOOD: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19th – 11:30am to 6 pm – Watch for more information
- **February**
 - MISSION: The youth group will lead the congregation in serving a meal at LINK February 1st.
 - MISSION: The Youth will lead in collections of canned food for the Souper Bowl of Caring Feb. 9th.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Christmas from the Back Side** continues this Sunday at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. The class will be led by Pastor Helen and will follow a book by J. Ellsworth Kalas, former president and professor of Asbury Theological Seminary. The class will look at the Christmas events to enlarge the familiar borders of the Christmas Story. (No need to purchase the book.)