

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent
11:00am — Sanctuary



“An Angel Appears to Zechariah”
Luke in the Phillip Medhurst Collection 010



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Thank you for joining us today! We're grateful for your presence and invite you to take part in our worship, mission, and programs. We hope you'll return next Sunday for the second Sunday of Advent. Livestreaming is also available to watch via the website or YouTube.

-Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner, Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, and Rev. Ann Pitman

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**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Paul Manz
Robert J. Powell

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Kopec Family

***Hymn No. 88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

***Call to Confession**

Friends, in today's scripture passage, a man named Zechariah is given good news from God and his response is to ask, "How can this be?"

Have any of you ever felt that way when receiving good news?

It can be hard to receive good news when we don't expect it.
It can be hard to accept God's grace and God's love when we think we don't deserve it.
But friends, scripture tells us over and over again of a loving, generous, and gracious God. So may we come to the prayer of confession today, not with fear, but with an

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, “How can this be?” God’s love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Responsive Hymn No. 105 People, Look East

BESANÇON

Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of _ the year. Make your house
fair as you are a - ble; trim the hearth and set _ the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east and sing to -
day: Love, the guest, is on _ the way.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem O Dayspring

John Stainer

Chancel Choir

O Dayspring! Brightness of the everlasting light, and Sun of righteousness, O Dayspring.

Come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness, come, come!

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:1-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon “Acknowledging Our Weariness”

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn No. 104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory O Emmanuel

John Stainer

Chancel Choir

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, Hope of all nations, and their Saviour; Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, and save us. Come, come!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer and 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God's. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to come and be fed.

Communion Music Improvisation on *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

***Hymn No.** 97 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Chorale Prelude on *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!*

Malcolm Archer

Chancel Flowers

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Howard, Mary and Johanna Schneider by the Reverend Gretchen Schneider.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Advent Candle Lighters: Andrew, Lydia, Hannah, and Zoey Kopec

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Carolyn Krebs and Carole Slater

Ushers: Dan Serban, Jack Patton, David Beer, Anne Barnett

Communion Preparers: Anne Barnett, Pat Kohart, Tom Mettler, Anita Wolfe

Communion Servers: Chuck Chapman, Ron Kohart, Tom Mettler, Courtney Wallace, Marcie Weissner, Steve Weissner

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir: Soprano: Irene Ator, Susan Dorion, Slate Egolf, Liz Graham, Antoinette Lee, Gretchen Lee, Ellis Pedersen, Sandy Shearer; Alto: Angela Green, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Mary Jane Ormerod, Cassandra Petrie, Carol Rhudy, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters; Tenor: Jude Balthazar, Quinton Davis, Marj Sapp; Bass: David Beer, Scott McMeen, Jim Mergenthal, and Kip Ormerod

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

MINISTRIES FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES



Because Communion is so important in the life of the church, we feel it's important that we all celebrate it together. But, be not afraid! Sunday School for our Kinders thru 5th grade will be back next Sunday! Miss Rachel and friends will be excited to be back in action!

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN 6MO - 5YRS
Jesus loves the little children, and we do, too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child is always invited to drop in. Ask an usher for assistance.



Please return after church,
so it's there next week!

Worship isn't always easy for little hands and minds to focus, so you are invited to "check out" a fidget toy-filled Busy Bag or a book from our Littles' Library, located in the narthex!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 3, 2023

- 9:30am HeBrews, YL
- 10:00am The Wired Word, PR
- 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB
- 10:30am Childcare, NR
- 11:00am English Worship Communion, SC
- 11:00am Korean Worship Communion, CH
- 12:15pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH

Monday, December 4, 2023

- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH
- 3:00pm Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship, 302
- 7:30pm Faith Formation Committee, ZM

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

- 10:00am Staff Meeting, SR
- 11:00am Counter Team, FO
- 11:05am Staff Worship Planning, SR
- 5:30pm Personnel Committee, SR

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

- 10:00am Table Talk, ZM
- 10:30am Day School Chapel, CH
- 1:30pm 3B Exercise Class, MH

Thursday, December 7, 2023

- 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal, 201
- 6:30pm Choir Social Time, PR
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, MR

Friday, December 8, 2023

- 9:30am Day School Music Class, MR
- 10:00am Men's Bible Study, ZM
- 1:00pm Women's Bible Study, ZM

Saturday, December 9, 2023

- 10:00am Gingerbread Decorating, MH

Sunday, December 10, 2023

- 9:30am HeBrews, YL
- 10:00am The Wired Word, PR
- 10:00am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, SB
- 10:30am Childcare, NR
- 11:00am English Worship Service, SC
- 11:00am Korean Worship Service, CH
- 11:15am Sunday School, 208
- 12:15pm Hospitality Time, MH
- 12:15pm KLM Fellowship, FH

Campus Room Abbreviations

CH	Chapel	MF	McKay Foyer	SB	Sanctuary Balcony
CL	Chapel Lounge	MH	McKay Hall	SC	Sanctuary
CN	Chapel Narthex	MR	Music Room	SDR	Small Dining Room
CY	Courtyard	NP	North Parking Lot	SM/	Stephen Ministry Office
FH	Fellowship Hall	NX	Narthex	SR	Session Room
FO	Front Office	NR	Nursery	TH	Theater
GL	Gallery	OS	Offsite	YL	Youth Lounge
KT	Main Kitchen	PR	Parlor	ZM	Zoom