

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 3, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Chorale Prelude on "Cranham"* - Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome and Announcements

- December 16, 10 am – Coffee, Tea, & Cookies with PW – RSVP to Jo Ann Anderson
- December 16 @ 7 pm, December 17 @ 3 pm – RCAS concert, Season of Light; \$10
- December 17 in worship – Cantata, Festival of Lessons & Carols
- December 17 after worship – Carry-in lunch – RSVP to Mary Kwantes

Prelude: *In the Bleak Midwinter* - Mark Hayes

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Litany for the First Sunday in Advent

Advent Song#103: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* vs. 1

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near.

**You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake in the world
You show up in our lives at unexpected times.**

Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival.

**We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour,
you hurry to gather all people to your peace.**

Candle Lighting Carol #85: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 1

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

We are waiting for the dawn of God's incarnation.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

We are like clay awaiting the potter.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

Teach us to keep alert as we wait.

Restore us, O God. Let us see your face.

Sustain us this day as we worship you.

Amen. Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Great God, no one knows the hour of your return, yet we await your arrival, trusting that it will come. There is a sense of urgency in our waiting. We await the birth of Jesus, but we watch for so much more, anticipating all that your incarnation means in a hurting world. Teach us to keep alert, that we may not become complacent or convinced that we have time. Show us how to hurry up and wait, to enact our expectation by sharing love, offering forgiveness, and living according to the movement of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Opening Hymn #82: *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (stand)

Call to Confession

Together let us confess our sin and lament the ways
in which we have been separated from God, praying:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, as we watch and wait for signs of your expansive love, forgive our narrow thinking. As we repent in the wilderness with John, we confess that we often lack the imagination to testify to the coming light. As we visit the home of Elizabeth, we lament our loss of wonder and our failure to recognize miracles among us. Even as we hear the witness of the angels and the shepherds, we confess that we do not make haste to go and see the Christ. Forgive our apathy and small-mindedness. When the wait is over and all is finished, open our minds to recognize the strength and wisdom of Christ, God with us. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Hear this good news: in Christ there is strength and wisdom,
expansive love and everlasting grace.

**We are forgiven and transformed to go and proclaim the wonder
of the one who is coming.**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father* (please stand)

Anthem:

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church he world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Call your church into holy fellowship as we await the restoration of all things. Reenergize your faithful people to live with hope and compassion, especially those who serve as missionaries near and far. Center us on your promise to come among us and make all things new.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all of our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

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

Hymn #39:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

(seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, King of Glory, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1 – 9

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3 – 9

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13:24 – 37

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Season of Hope

Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith: Prayer for Listening and Speaking – First Presbyterian, Rolla
(please stand)

In all the relationships of our church life, community life, and personal life may we follow the teachings of Jesus. May we endeavor to speak the truth in love and be guided by scripture in our thoughts, decisions, and actions. May we respect and listen deeply to one another, keep confidences, and avoid gossip and triangulation. May we pray for and with one another, building each other up, realizing every soul is precious to God. Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (stand)

Offering #708: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* v.1 and 2

Prayer of Dedication:

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #105: *People, Look East* v. 1, 2, 3, 4 (stand)

Charge and Benediction:

People look East the time is near!
Prepare for the coming of the Christ Child with anticipation and joy.
Share the good news of His glory in all that you do.
Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Postlude on "Picardy"* - Douglas E. Wagner

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis.
Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Susan Murray.
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