

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service First Sunday of Advent

Nov. 30, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *What Is This Lovely Fragrance?* Ty Robert Thornton

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Longing for Messiah* Mark Hayes

Lighting the Advent Wreath

If so, answer “Yes, with God’s help.

Yes, with God’s help.

Baby Jesus, your arrival will change everything. With Mary, we know we’re not ready yet. We light one candle and take comfort that we still have time to prepare. Amen.

Advent Song #85: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 1

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

Wake up; wake up! The day of God is near.

We do not know the hour, so we will live like the time is here and now. God is here, now!

Let us go to the house of our Living God.

We journey with all peoples of all creeds.

Let us go and bask in Holy Wisdom’s warmth

so that we can learn her ways and choose her paths.

To enter the house of God, we must wake up to the nightmare of hate and violence; all oppression must cease.

We will beat our weapons into tools for love. We will take the walls we raise against the stranger and build a house where all can live in peace.

Prayer of the Day

God of justice, God of peace, even now you are breaking into our weary world. Make your presence known to those who wait and watch for you. Send your Spirit of justice rolling over the earth; sweep away all war and suffering so that all of your creation can glorify you in peace—the kin-dom that Jesus promised us come down to earth at last. Amen.

Opening Hymn #93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
(stand)

Call to Confession

This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

Trusting in the merciful love of God, let us pray together.

Prayer of Confession

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory to God #89 *For You O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* vs. 1

Anthem: *Advent Prayer* arr. Clemens

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.
Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

God of grace. **Hear our 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

Hymn #102: *Savior of the Nations Come* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 2:1 - 5.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:11 - 14.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24:36 - 44

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Seeking Shalom (based on Isaiah 2:1 - 5) Jonathan Kimball

Affirmation of Faith (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #712: *As Those of Old Their First Fruits Brought* vs 1

Prayer of Dedication:

Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.

Sending Hymn #384: *Soon and Very Soon* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: (remain standing)

May the God of peace make you holy
and the power of the Spirit sustain you
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:3

Postlude: *Joyful Recessional* Gary Norian

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