

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for Second Sunday in Advent**

Dec. 7, 2025

**Pre-Service Music:**    *Advent Prayer*            Anthony Giamanco

**Welcome and Announcements:**

**Prelude:**    *In the Bleak Midwinter*            Mark Hayes

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Community, I invite you to join me in a space of imagination and wonder.

... Let us pray:

**This week we light two candles and think about all the ways God calls us to partnership. We light these candles in gratitude for companions in the pilgrimage on earth. Amen.**

**Advent Song #85:**    *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 2)*

**Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day**    (*Adapted from Isaiah 11*)

A tree stump left to rot puts forth new shoots.

**Could it be that heaven is near at hand?**

A wolf slinks toward sheep and joins their fold.

**Could it be that heaven is near at hand?**

A child plays while serpents slumber.

**Could it be that heaven is near at hand?**

A prophet cries out from the wild places:

**Prepare the way! For heaven is near at hand.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**God of the barren places, whose Spirit rouses stagnant hearts to life, come baptize us in fire that clears away the detritus of despair and apathy. Set our spirits ablaze with impossible dreams of oppressors giving up their power for peace and children at play where war once reigned, that, in dreaming, we might come to believe a better world is possible, and begin to ready the way for your incoming kin-dom. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #106: *Prepare the Way, O Zion* (stand)**

### **Call to Confession**

John the Baptist's cry echoes through the ages:  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!

**Here and now, we go to God in humility and faith,  
confessing our sins.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kin-dom. Amen.**

## **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Christ comes into our world—Christ comes into our lives—to purify us and give us another chance. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**We rejoice in the hope Christ offers us! 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. 3)

**Anthem:**                      *Advent Message*                      Martin How

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

## **Prayers of the People**

God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**

**Offering #711:**                      *Lord of All Good*                      (vs. 1)

## **Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:**

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. 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 11: 1 – 10.

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 15:4 – 13

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 3:1 – 12

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** River of Grace Jonathan Kimball

**Communion Hymn #511:** *Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven* (vs. 1-3)

**Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: The earth is full of your knowledge and glory. You made all creatures to live in peace and safety, and sent a little child to lead us. Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Baptized by John, Christ came to deliver us from sin, and to pour out the Holy Spirit upon your church. By our faith in Christ, we have the hope of eternal life.**

Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast. Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Fill us with wisdom and understanding, knowledge and power, and grant that we may live in harmony with one another as we await the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever. Now pray the words Jesus our Savior 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.**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**   *(take the communion)*

In the same way, Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**   *(take the communion)*

## **Prayer After Communion**

**God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn #511:** *Come, Behold! the Feast of Heaven* (vs. 4)

**Sending Hymn #362:** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

## **Benediction**

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)*

In the words of John the Baptist, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

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

**Postlude:**      *People, Look East*                      Anthony Giamanco

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