

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 21, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* Terry Osman

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Children of the Heavenly Father* Lloyd Larson

Lighting the Advent Wreath

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

... Are we ready to welcome the little one who will change everything?

We light four candles and know the time of holy birth draws near, whether we are ready, or not. We welcome you Emmanuel, God with us, and pray for your loving presence to stay with us.

Advent Song #85: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 4

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

Behold! a teenage girl is pregnant with the God who knit her in her own mother's womb,

strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.

She said yes to divine revolution even though it meant social condemnation,

strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.

God's Spirit stokes subversive dreams in us to help us defy the status quo,

strange signs from a strange God who upturns expectations.

Prayer of the Day

Emmanuel, God with us, you folded your infinity into an infant's body just to share in human life. Hold us as close as Mary, your mother, held you, safe and warm within herself. Whenever our bodies are used against us and we struggle to love our embodied selves, help us to feel your presence in our every cell making us sacred, exactly as we are. Amen.

Opening Hymn #107 *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*
(stand)

Call to Confession

God comes to us just as we are, with all our triumphs, our worries, our gratitude, and our failures. We deepen our relationship with God now by drawing close and confessing our sins.

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

Prayer of Confession

Shepherd of our souls, we anticipate your coming but do not feel ready. We have done too much, and not done enough. We have focused too much on ourselves, and not enough on others. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we might be saved. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Emmanuel did not come into this world to condemn, but to save.

God does not come to imprison us, but to set us free.

Through this abundant love, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. 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: *Come to Us, Emmanuel* Carmen Scialla

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 #108: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* vs. 1, 2, 3 (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 7:10 - 16

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1 - 7

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18 - 25

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: God Is With Us 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 2

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 #100: *Canticle of the Turning* (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

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

Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:3

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

Postlude: *Sing We Now of Christmas* Tracey Craig McKibben

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