



Christ in Glory, 1963. Artist: Saget, Father George

Service for the Lord's Day

**December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent**

Gathering Around the Word of Worship

Gathering Music

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Improvisation on "Wachet auf", Mvt. III

Sietze de Vries (transcr. Nathaniel Brown)

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

The Lighting of the Advent Candle & Call to Worship (responsive)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart. ("Wait for the Lord," Glory to God, #90)

Children of God, we come, tired of waiting, burdened by the weight of watching.

We surrender to God's holy "not yet," embracing the stillness. We come, and God-with-us is present in our longing.

As we gather today, we remember the promised gifts of the Messiah. In the lighting of one candle, we set our gaze upon beacons that sustain us through sleepless nights and restless days. We bear this light together. We call this candle Hope. (Light the candle.)

Holy Creator, we tremble under the weight of suffering. It is the mess of our own making that pierces our hearts. You, O God, are our hope, the quiet strength in our deepest longing.

We stand in awe of a light that endures, a steady glow through the dimmest days.

We draw near to the God who waits with grace, filling us with hope in every season.

With hearts ignited, we work and wait for justice, trusting that it shines beyond even the deepest shadows. Though our flames may falter, we press on, for God-is-with-us — Emmanuel is near!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

Prince of Peace, you reign in grace and mercy over the whole world. Your way is marked by steadfast love and faithfulness. O Lord, wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace in the midst of our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Confessional Hymn

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ, have mercy upon us,
Lord, have mercy upon us*

Declaration of Good News (responsive)

“Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.”
Know that we are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Passing the Peace of Christ (responsive)

The Prince of Peace reigns in the lives of his holy people. The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you.

Children Are Welcome to Attend Children’s Church at Side Sanctuary Doors

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call, and be prepared for Christ’s coming this Christmas. Amen.

Old Testament Reading (Responsive)

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness’ sake, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

New Testament Reading

Luke 21:25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

Sermon

Advent Alert

Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERSTWYTH

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39, Book of Common Worship

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All Sit

Offering

Offertory Hymn 508

Come to the Table

COME TO THE TABLE

All Stand

Doxology

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, we trust in the provision of your love and the abundance of your grace. May the gifts we offer sow seeds of peace and justice. Enable us to use them according to your will, until each child finds welcome, and all of creation is healed and reconciled to you. Amen.

All Sit

Sealing the Word in the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (responsive)

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your heart.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

.... Therefore, we praise you, joining the heavenly chorus and the global choir, singing forever to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

SANCTUS

*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, hosanna in the highest.

Hymn at Communion 530

One Bread, One Body

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

A Moment of Silence

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

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

All Stand

Closing Hymn 734

Hope of the World

DON SECOURS

Benediction

Postlude

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661 (alt.)

J. S. Bach

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*Liturgy today has been adapted from work by Teri McDowell, Ott, Dr. Montisa Anntoinette Watkins and Rev. Shavon Starlin-Louis

* Photograph courtesy of Robert Harding. Building: Abbaye de Keur Moussa:

Announcements

USHERS: Kernohan and Hines families

COMMUNION SERVERS: Mike Kanan, Sheila Reeves, and Sandy Franklin

COMMUNION PREPARERS AND CLEANUP: Sally Calkins and Ray Elms

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Johnna Smith, Aletheia Burt, Mack Overfelt, Wyatt Edmonds, Jeremiah Simpson and Quinn Hixon

LAY READER: Brianna Trickey

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Alisia Simmons, Yamilet Bruno Sanchez

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 8: Malachi 3:1–4; Luke 1:68–79; Philippians 1:3–11; Luke 3:1–6

TODAY

DEACON OF THE WEEK this week will be Barbara Brindle. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES continue to meet at 9:15 a.m. and will conclude an hour later in time for 10:30 a.m. church service.

THE FLOWERS AT THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory of God and are in loving memory of Jerre Nelson Fitts. The flowers are given by her family.

AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will **NOT** meet during the month of December and will resume in January.

COMING UP:

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN (DRITI) has begun! We are in special need for volunteers on Thursdays: a crucial need is an Innkeeper who is able to stay overnight; we also need volunteers to be greeters, prepare a side dish, help with serving dinner, and dinner clean-up. Sign up today on the chapel landing! This overnight shelter assistance for our local homeless population is a community-wide effort. We will host each Thursday night through the winter. DRITI is not just a shelter; it's a place of hope and gives volunteers an opportunity to have a meaningful impact in an individual's life that is facing homelessness.

GLOVES WITH LOVE Our 10th Street fence will be dressed in gloves, socks, hats, and scarves after Christmas and during the DRITI season. Your donations of items to hang on the fence will be greatly appreciated. All donations can be dropped off in the church office after Christmas.

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNERS AND PROGRAMS DURING ADVENT – December 4, 11, and 18 – 6:00 p.m. Join us on Wednesday evenings for fellowship, a soup supper, and a program. Dinner begins at 6:00 each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall. The menu for December 4 is chili, baked potatoes, with lemon bars for dessert. Please sign up on the Pew Pad or call the church office by noon on Wednesday if you're coming, so we know how much food to prepare. Donations are welcome to cover the cost of the meal.

FLOWER CALENDAR Worship Ministry reminds the congregation that members are encouraged to place floral offerings in the Sanctuary for the enhancement of Sunday Services. Flowers may be purchased and placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, to honor or memorialize friends and loved ones. Call the church office to arrange for a date and a bulletin notation, if you wish to participate.

OTHER NEWS

LAY READERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY A signup page is online for upcoming lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve on one Sunday, please scan the QR code to visit this link and sign up for a date. Lay reader information will be emailed on the Friday prior to the date. Thank you!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN Sunday Morning Circle meets the second Sunday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Ladies' Parlor; Circle 9 meets the second Monday in each month at 12:00 noon at a member's home; Tuesday Evening Circle meets the second Tuesday in each month at 7:00 p.m. at Diane Simmon's home; Wednesday Morning Circle meets the second Wednesday in each month at 9:30 a.m. in the 10th Street Parlor; An exact location for Circle 9 meetings will be provided on the church bulletin's calendar and in the 60-second email.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB will be preparing soup suppers three Wednesdays during Advent - December 4, 11, and 18. We will gather in the church kitchen on Wednesdays at 4:00 for lots of interesting conversation mixed in with the chopping, dicing, and stirring. We welcome you to join us for one, two, or all three Wednesdays. Contact Mary Evans at 270-791-7205 to let her know of your interest.

SEASONAL SINGERS: Come sing Lessons and Carols with the Chancel Choir on December 8th during worship. Would you like to sing in the choir but cannot regularly make rehearsals? **NO PROBLEM.** We have assembled a collection of lovely and accessible anthems for the Lessons and Carols that require minimal rehearsal. If you can make it to a couple of rehearsals, you'll be fine. **AND** one of those will be at 9 a.m., just before the Lessons and Carols service on December 8th. **AND** packets of the music and rehearsal tracks are now available in hard copy and online. Give it a look and a listen! Feel free to ask Wayne or any choir member about it.

#lovetosing#reasonfortheseason#Christmascarols#chancelchoirrockstar

OUR CHRISTMAS CAROLING DATE HAS BEEN SET! Please join us on Sunday, December 15th after worship for a soup and sandwich potluck after worship in our Fellowship Hall. After lunch we will divide into groups to go caroling at local care homes, take cookies to residents, and do our Christmas caroling too! We want lots of voices, and lots of cookies for this event! If you'd like to offer cookies, please bring them to the church by that Sunday morning. Cookie tins are also welcome. Mark your calendars, and come join the fun! A signup sheet is available online.

Christmas Caroling Event



SATURDAY MEALS Please consider donating 15oz cans of peas for the Saturday Meals Holiday boxes. We are currently working toward the goal of 252 cans. Donations may be placed in the drawer under the stairs labeled Saturday Meals.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.

Clerk of Session: Debbie Trickey **Treasurer:** Steve Moore

Elders: Class of 2025- Karol Kirby Ahmed, Buzz English, Pamela Napier, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027- Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden
Deacons: Class of 2025- Barbara Brindle, Craig Long, Teri Polen, Ernie Small, Dan Stelling, Fred Trickey; Class of 2026- Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027- Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan

The Presbyterian Church Staff

Transitional Pastor

Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director

Children's Music Director

Organist

Financial Administrator

Treasurer

Secretary

Office Assistant

Director, Preschool Learning Center

Custodian

Clerk of Session

Sound Attendant/Sunday Sexton

Rev. Kyle Otterbein

Dr. Wayne Pope

Mrs. Beth Pope

Dr. Nathaniel Brown

Mrs. Terry Johnson

Mr. Steve Moore

Mrs. Cheryl Gregory

Mrs. Robin Watkins Tolbert

Ms. Kimberly Watkins

Mr. Cedric Whitney

Mrs. Debbie Trickey

Ms. Laura Parkerson

Calendar

Sunday, Dec 1

8:30 a.m. Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
9:45 a.m. Godly Play
10:30 a.m. Worship
12:00 p.m. Eating Out Sm. Group
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, Dec 2

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love

Tuesday, Dec 3

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
11:00 a.m. Special Care
5:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 4

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
5:15-6-15 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, Dec 5

6:00 p.m. David's Room In the Inn
7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Group at Julia Roberts' home

Friday, Dec 6

7:30 a.m. Mens' Breakfast Group

Visit Our Church Website: <https://bgpres.org>



Donate Online: The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code. <https://bgpres.org/give>



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