

Service for the Lord's Day

November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent

Gathering Around the Word of Worship



Christ our Light, 20th century. Building: Holy Rosary Priory

Gathering Music

Mike Kanan

Striking of the Hour

Prelude *Wachet auf, ruft uns die
Stimme, BWV 645*

J. S. Bach

Welcome

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship (responsive)

from Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me, "Let
us go into the house of the LORD!"

**Our feet are standing within your
gates, O Jerusalem.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

**"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and
security within your towers."**

For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, "Peace be within you."

**For the sake of the house of the Lord
our God, I will seek your good.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Please join in with the prayer when
invited.*

**Come Lord Jesus, we are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. You
alone are the world's true hope! Amen.**

Opening Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Call to Adoration and Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (unison)

**O God, our world is full of the light of your glory. We glorify and praise you. Yet,
while we ask, Lord, for an Advent season filled with your Spirit, we sadly confess
to having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee,
not reading the Book, not searching our hearts and facing our sins. Deal with us
according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning
breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed
resolve to live to glorify Christ. Amen.**

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Confessional Hymn 695

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

Refrain: *Change my heart, O God; make it ever true
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the Potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.*
to Refrain

Declaration of Good News (responsive)

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to the God of Advent, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

Passing the Peace (responsive)

May light shine when you find yourself in darkness. The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

A Time with Young Christians (children welcomed to the front of the sanctuary)

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

God of creation, you remind us that the darkness of ignorance and doubt cannot overcome your life-giving Word. May your Holy Spirit, who first inspired these words of Scripture, shine your light and once again awaken us to the hearing and living of this radiant truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Old Testament Reading (responsive)

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Anthem

For God So Loved the World

Marty Haugen

Refrain: *For God so loved the world, God gave the only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die, but have life. So much God loved the world, so much God loves the world.*

He came to his own who would know him not, though all who behold him, all who receive him are called the children of God.

As Moses lifted up the serpent so that all who looked to it might live, the Son of Man must be lifted up so that all who believe, all who look to him may have eternal life. God's son came not to condemn the world but that the world may be saved through him, and all who believe in the Son of God shall come to the light, and live in the light, and dwell in the heart of God.

All Stand

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

All Sit

Sermon

Hope on Alert

Kyle Otterbein

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn 97

Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

Affirmation of Faith (unison)

from Our World Belongs to God

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God! God remembered his promise to reconcile the world to himself; he has come among us in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh.

All Sit

Offering

Call to Offering

Offertory

Send the Light

MCABE

*There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave. "Send the light! Send the light!"
There are souls to rescue, there are souls to save. Send the light! Send the light!*

Refrain: *Send the light, the blessed gospel light; Let it shine from shore to shore! Send the light the blessed gospel light; Let it shine forevermore!*

We have heard the Macedonian call today, "Send the light! Send the light!" And a golden off'ring at the cross we lay, Send the light! Send the light!

Let us pray that grace may ev'rywhere abound "Send the light! Send the light!" And a Christlike spirit ev'rywhere be found. Send the light! Send the light!

*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 (unison)

O Mighty One, we thank you for all the good gifts of this life. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

All Sit

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 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
verses 1-2, 5-7

VENI EMMANUEL

Benediction

Postlude

Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland

Paul Manz

.....
**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life...those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." John 3:16, 21*

"In his commentary on Genesis, 'De Genesi ad Litteram,' Augustine reflected on the meaning of the words 'Fiat lux' ("And light was made") and brought into the theological tradition a perennial interest in the theology of light and of vision. Augustine notes that light was the first creature made out of 'nothing.' As the 'first incarnation' of God's Word, light is the supreme example of God's beauty or form. Moreover, since light is incorporeal, it is the most spiritual of all 'creatures.' And since light is not only incorporeal but also visible, it is the ultimate mediator between the visible and the invisible, the material and the immaterial."

Note: This image and many others with iconographic content have been generously donated to the Flickr Creative Commons by Brother Lawrence, OP.

Object Function: Stain Glass. City/Town: Bushey. Country: United Kingdom.

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across the entire width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The background is a solid off-white color.

Announcements

USHERS: Polen and Thomison families

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE Sammy Del Rey, Blake Miller, Keelin Murrell, Mack Overfelt, and Johnna Smith

LAY READER: Ben Davenport

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Laura Parkerson

NURSERY: Yamilet Bruno Sanchez and Mary Evans

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 7: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

TODAY

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

BUCK IN A BASKET for today will go to support Angel Tree Meals. Buck in a Basket Offering is an opportunity to consider contributing during the offering for a particular mission not included in our regular budget.

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

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL is available at church for those who would like to pick one up or an e-copy of The Advent Devotional is available on the Church's website. This year's devotional includes artwork from our youth.

YOUTH GROUP will meet today, here at the church, at 5pm in Fellowship Hall.

TOPPER MINISTRIES will NOT meet this Sunday. It will reconvene on Sunday, December 7.

THE AFTER CHURCH EATING OUT GROUP will not meet this Sunday nor the month of December. They will reconvene in January 2026.

OTHER NEWS

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN (DRITI) began for us on November 20. DRITI is gearing up now for another winter season. This overnight shelter assistance for our local homeless population is a community-wide effort. We will host each Thursday night through the winter. Signup sheets for volunteers are ready at the chapel landing. Helpers will be needed for meals, setup and cleanup, inn-keeping, dinner hosting, etc. Check it out the next time you visit church. You may sign up for only one, or for more than one Thursday in a slot. Everything helps!

ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us in a time of inter-generational discovery as we gather in the fellowship hall for Sunday School on the Sundays of Advent: November 30 and December 7, 14, and 21. We will gather at 9:15 am each Sunday for breakfast treats and coffee. At 9:30 am Sunday School will begin with singing and the sharing of scripture, followed by a special reading and sharing of a special Christmas story led by one of our members. The experience will be capped off with a craft designed for children of all ages!

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNERS AND PROGRAMS DURING ADVENT – December 3, 10, and 17– 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 3 is chili. 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.

THE PRESBYTERIAN COOKING CLUB will be preparing soup suppers three Wednesdays during Advent - December 3, 10, and 17. 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. If you would like to join this group, please contact Mary Evans at 270-791-7205 to let her know of your interest.

OUR ANGEL TREE is up and we need your help providing for our family members on the tree. If you would like to take an angel to buy gifts please sign beside the number on our signup sheet so we know every kid has been taken care of. Please ensure the gifts are wrapped and returned to the office by **December 14** with the angel attached so we can have them organized for delivery on December 20. If you would like to help with our angel tree but aren't able to shop, donations are welcome and we can have people shop for you instead. Our youth will be glad to help wrap your gifts. Any questions regarding the Angel Tree can be directed to Terry Johnson at administrator@bgpres.org or you can call the church office at 270-843-4707. Thank You.

SOCKS FOR SENIORS Once again CECELIA MEMORIAL is participating in the "Socks for Seniors" drive with Christian Family Radio. This year the senior facilities have requested "gripper" socks to be donated. Cecelia Memorial will be collecting socks now through December 4 to be delivered to the radio station. CFR is also asking for volunteers to deliver the socks to the senior facilities. We do not have a specific date for deliveries at this point. If you can, please donate whatever socks you can. They must be new socks. You can put them in Lovelyn's cubbie in the office, drop them off at Cecelia or contact Lovelyn for pickup at 619-368-2103. Thanks to everyone in advance for your participation.

CHRISTMAS PARADE MEET-UP coming on December 6! Join Pastor Kyle on the morning of Saturday, December 6. Kyle will be there making pancakes for anyone who wants to enjoy breakfast together before the Jaycees Christmas Parade. The parade begins at 9:30 am, so Kyle plans to share breakfast between 8:30 and 9:30. If you are coming for breakfast, feel free to bring something to share.

SATURDAY MEALS Please consider donating 15oz cans of peas for the Saturday Meals Holiday boxes. We are currently working toward the goal of 240 cans by December 14. Donations may be taken to the church office and placed in the third office on the right.

ART EXHIBIT The Sunny 16 photography exhibit on display in the fellowship hall will continue until December 4th. The exhibit showcases the skill of capturing light by photographers from South Central Kentucky.

INSPIRATIONAL MEDITATION The Tuesday morning yoga class has a new name. It is now Inspirational Meditation. Class meets here at the church on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. If you would like the opportunity to learn how integrate your mind, body, and spirit to align with God's Spirit, please come join this class. Instructor: Trudy Burkeen.

LAY READERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY A signup page is online for lay readers in the coming weeks. If you are willing to serve 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!



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 the minister, officers, and congregation.

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

Elders: Class of 2026- Pam Bratcher, Rachel Crocker, Claire Ellington, J.B. Hines, Susan Howard, Mike Kanan; Class of 2027-Sam Evans, Nathan Love, Susan Thomison, Debbie Trickey, Larry Warden; Class of 2028-Clark Carthrae, Buzz English, Julia Roberts, Julie Wedge; **Deacons:** Class of 2026-Phil Burkeen, Kim Ferguson, Kathy Higgins, Laura Parkerson, Dan Stelling, Brianna Trickey; Class of 2027-Trudy Burkeen, Georgeanna Capito, Sally Calkins, Nancy Carwell, Evan Goad, Frederica Kernohan; Class of 2028-Nancy English, Sharon Hendrix, Jan Morgan, and Margaret Stein.

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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Director of Music/Chancel Choir Director
Children's Music Director
Organist
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Mr. Cedric Whitney
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Donate Online: The church website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, accepts online donations. Just go to our website, <https://bgpres.org/give>, and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You may also scan this QR code:



Calendar

Sunday, November 30

9:15 a.m. Advent Sunday School
Gathering
9:15 a.m. Children's Music
9:30 a.m. Sunday School Starts
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, December 1

9:00 a.m. GOD/DOG is Love
6:00 p.m. Deacon's Meeting

Tuesday, December 2

9:30 a.m. Inspirational Meditation
11:00 a.m. Special Care

Wednesday, December 3

7:00 a.m. Breakfast Group
9:30 a.m. Crisis and New Creation
Class
5:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:00 p.m. Advent Program and
Dinner

Thursday, December 4

6:00 p.m. David's Room in the Inn
7:00 p.m. Neighborhood Group

Friday, December 5

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

Saturday, December 6

8:30 a.m. Christmas Parade
Meet-Up
9:30 a.m. Jaycees Christmas Parade

The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

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