



First Presbyterian Church

201 S. High St.
Kirksville, MO

December 3, 2023 – 1st Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Welcome

Special Music

“People, Look East”

Adult Choir

*Call to Worship

Heaven and earth will pass away,
but the word of God endures forever.
Jesus says: I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

*Gathering Prayer

*Hymn 106 *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*

Advent Candle Lighting

Dustin & Courtney Hamilton

The nations 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.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Amen.

Hymn

“A Candle is Burning” (verse 1)

See Insert

Call to Confession

1st Sunday in Advent

Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*Hymn 581 *“Glory Be to the Father”*

We Listen to God’s Word

Prayer of 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.

Scripture:

Old Testament Lesson	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>	Old Testament pg 694
New Testament Lesson	<i>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</i>	New Testament pg 166
Psalter	<i>Psalms 80:1-7,17-19</i>	Old Testament pg 540

The congregation will respond by reading the even numbered verses.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music *“Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive”* Adult Choir

Gospel Lesson *Mark 13:24-37* New Testament pg 50

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Message: Getting Ready for Christmas

1st Sunday in Advent

*Hymn 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

We Respond in Faith

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ’s realm.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Opportunities for Ministry

Loose Offering – The first Sunday of the month is designated for the loose offering to go to the Deacon’s Fund. Loose Offering is any coin or currency not in an envelope. Those wishing to donate by check or have their donation recorded in the giving records may do so by designating Deacons on their check or on a pew envelope. The Deacons Fund is used for funeral meals, reception refreshments, and to help those in need.

Clothes Closet Christmas Shoppe - PYF youth are invited to help package baking bundles and stuff stockings for the Clothes Closet Christmas Shoppe, Sunday, December 10 during their regular meeting time. We also still need 4 cookie mixes, 4 sets of cookie cutters and 8 pot holders to complete 17 cookie baking bundles. All items need to be turned in to the church office before Saturday, December 9. The Christmas Shoppe will be open on Saturday, December 16 from 9:30 a.m. - noon in the FPC Fellowship Hall.

Quarters Needed - Quarters are needed for Laundry Day. A standard prescription pill bottle is a convenient way to save your quarters and holds approximately \$10 which is enough to sponsor one family’s laundry cost. Quarters at FPC may be left in the laundry detergent container, the church offering plate (marked Clothes Closet), or in the church office.

PYF Dinners - We need one more person/family to provide dinner this year for the PYF on December 17th. Please see either Becky or Pastor Josh if you would like to provide dinner that day.

White Gift Service - This year’s White Gift Service will be next Sunday, December 10th. It will be a lessons and carols service. Gifts will be for the Clothes Closet Christmas Shop. Grab a card off the tree and bring it back in a bag to put under the tree.

1st Sunday in Advent

Offering

*Hymn 606 *“Doxology”*

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Great 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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

The Lord’s 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

1st Sunday in Advent

*Hymn 100 *“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”*

We Depart to Serve

Charge and Blessing

Sung Benediction Hymn 70 *“What Does the Lord Require of You”*

Postlude

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 3 - First Feast

9:30 – Worship; **10:30** - Fellowship; **11:00** - Sunday School; **6:00 p.m.** - PYF

Tuesday, December 5

1:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet; **5:15 p.m.** - Deacon’s Meeting; **6:30 p.m.** - Outreach Meeting

Thursday, December 7

9:30 a.m. - Friendship Hour; **3:15 p.m.** - Operation J.O.Y.

Saturday, December 9

10:00 a.m. - Clothes Closet

Sunday, December 10 - White Gift Service

9:30 – Worship; **10:30** - Fellowship; **11:00** - Sunday School; **6:00 p.m.** - PYF

Tuesday, December 12

1:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet

Thursday, December 14

9:30 a.m. - Friendship Hour; **3:15 p.m.** - Operation J.O.Y.

Saturday, December 16

9:30 a.m. - Clothes Closet Christmas Shoppe; **10:00 a.m.** - Clothes Closet

Attendance November 26, 2023

In person – 32

Online – 10

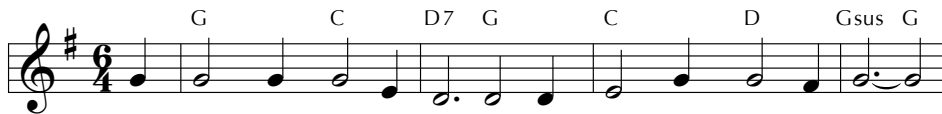
Church Office Hours This Week

Pastor Josh – Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. to noon.

Becky - Thursday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - noon.

Please feel free to contact the office for an appointment outside of these hours.

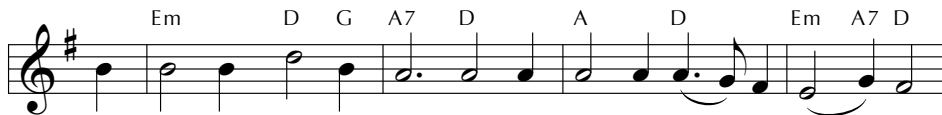
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



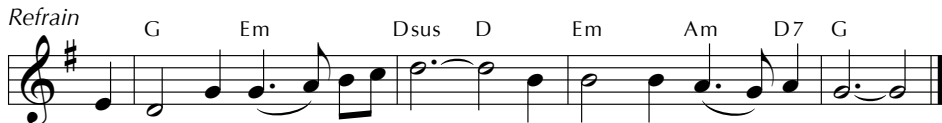
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

A Candle is Burning
sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger"

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, A
candle of HOPE in November's dark night
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh

A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE, A
candle to signal that conflict must cease For
Jesus is coming to show us the way
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay

A candle is burning, a candle of JOY,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy Our
hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow

A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE, A
candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame Our
Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim O
Come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Glory Be to the Father

581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

The first system of music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the".

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -".

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

The third system of music continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,".

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "world with - out end. A - men, a - men.".

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7–10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.

606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

*Or "God"

100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

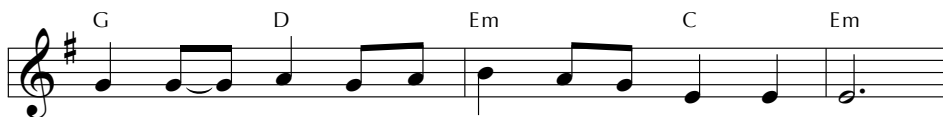
Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp.

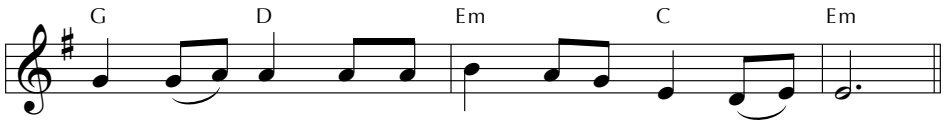


You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

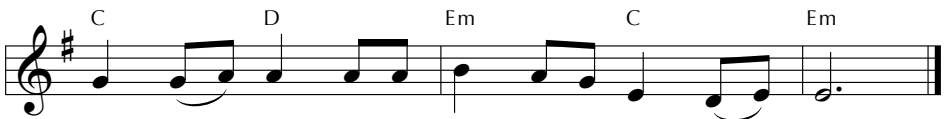
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
 B^b F Gm Dm

*1.

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.

Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.

To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
 E^b B^b Cm F B^b *Repeat as desired*

What does the Lord re - quire of you?

walk hum - bly with your God.

and walk hum - bly with your God.

**The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.*

This text is a very slight paraphrase of the latter part of Micah 6:8. That verse sums up in a single sentence the legal, ethical, and covenantal requirements of religion. The intertwining of these commitments can be suggested by singing these phrases in an overlapping canon.