



First Presbyterian Church

201 S. High St.
Kirksville, MO

December 1, 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

We Gather to Worship

Prelude

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome

*Call to Worship

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.
Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

*Gathering Prayer

*Hymn 87 *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*

Advent Candle Lighting

Samantha Pratt
Samantha Shirk

Hymn *“A Candle is Burning”* (verse 1)

See Insert

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in love for one another and for all.

1st Sunday of Advent

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

God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 701 “*Lord, Prepare Me*”

Scripture:

Old Testament Lesson	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i>	Old Testament pg 738
New Testament Lesson	<i>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</i>	New Testament pg 204
Psalter	<i>Psalms 25:1-10</i>	Old Testament pg 502

(The congregation will respond by reading the even numbered verses.)

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

Special Music “*Prepare the Way of the Lord*” Jason Gran
By Michael Larkin

Gospel Lesson *Luke 21:25-36* New Testament pg 85
The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Message “Will you be ready to stand before the Lord?” Dr. Paul Yoder

*Hymn 146 “*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*”

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.

*Hymn 469 “*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying*”

1st Sunday of Advent

Prayers of the People

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, in your mercy, **Lord, save us.**

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.

Christmas Joy Offering - The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Because of this offering our church workers can receive critical financial assistance to support them through life's challenges. For more information visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>. If you wish to donate, please put your donation in a pew envelope labeled Joy Offering or put Joy Offering in the memo section of your check.

White Gift Service - The White Gift service will be on December 8th. This year's gifts will be going to the Annual Clothes Closet Christmas Shoppe, to be held on December 21st. There are a few tags on the tree in the back of various items or you can refer to the list next to the tree on the table. Please take a tag and bring the item (along with the tag) back to the church in a bag (please do not wrap).

Presby Women - The next Presbyterian Women meeting will be December 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret Ferrell. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please see Margaret or Becky.

December 22, 2024 - This Sunday we will be joining the Memphis Presbyterian Church congregation located at 201 W. Madison St., Memphis, MO. Service time will be 10:30 a.m. with Fellowship to follow. There will be no service that Sunday in Kirksville.

Poinsettias - If you would like a poinsettia in memory of someone, please let me know. If I don’t hear from you, it will not be included on the poinsettia memorial insert. The cost is \$10/poinsettia.

Offering

*Hymn 606 “*Doxology*”

*Prayer of Dedication

The Lord’s Supper and 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.

1st Sunday of Advent

*Hymn 647 “Give Thanks”

We Depart to Serve

Charge and Blessing

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

Postlude

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 1 - Paul Yoder/First Feast

10:30 a.m. – Worship; 11:30 a.m. - Fellowship; 5:30 p.m. - White Gift Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 a.m. - Clothes Closet Sorting Group

Wednesday, December 4

6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

9:30 a.m. - Friendship Hour (Hardees); 3:15 p.m. - Deacon’s Meeting

Sunday, December 8 - White Gift/Youth Sunday

10:30 a.m. – Worship; 11:30 a.m. - Fellowship

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 a.m. - Clothes Closet Sorting Group; 1:00 p.m. - Clothes Closet Open;

2:00 p.m. - Presby Women; 7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

9:30 a.m. - Friendship Hour (Hardees)

December Food of the Month for PAC

Canned Stew

Attendance November 24, 2024

In person – 40

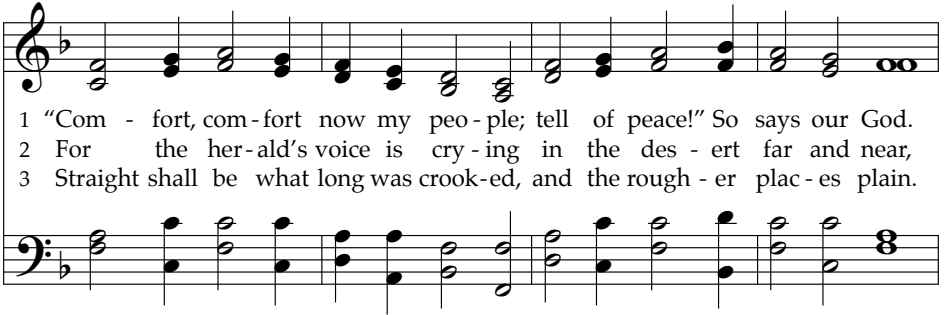
Online – 4

Church Office Hours This Week

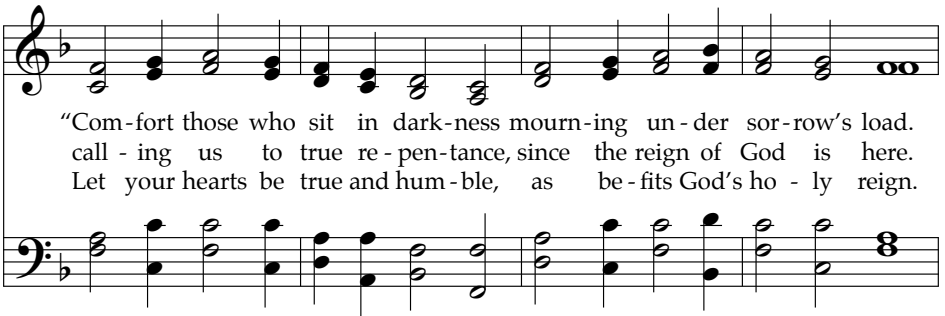
Becky - Monday - Friday, 8:00-Noon.

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

Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



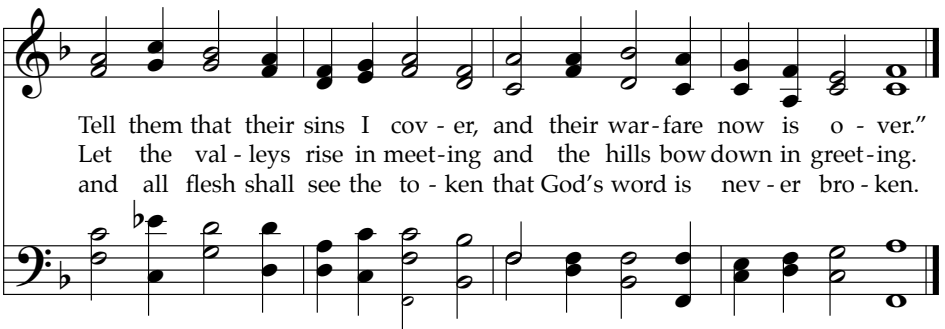
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

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 vocal line begins with a dotted quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B-flat4, and C5. The accompaniment consists of chords: G2-B2-E3, A2-B2-C3, B-flat2-C3-D3, and C3-E3-G3.

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

The second system continues the melody with quarter notes on D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note on G5. The accompaniment features chords: D3-F3-A3, E3-G3-B3, and F3-A3-C4.

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

The third system starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B-flat4, and C5. The accompaniment uses chords: G2-B2-E3, A2-B2-C3, B-flat2-C3-D3, and C3-E3-G3.

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

The fourth system concludes with a quarter note on D5, followed by quarter notes on E5 and F5, and a final half note on G5. The accompaniment includes chords: D3-F3-A3, E3-G3-B3, and F3-A3-C4, ending with a double bar line.

Lord, Prepare Me

701

Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
 I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The lines given here convey the central message of the longer song for which they form the refrain. The principal Scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:16–17, Paul’s reminder to the Christians at Corinth that “[they] are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in [them].”

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

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SANCTUARY

Irregular

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child 146

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
 heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called "The Manger Prince." It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means "The flowering time is near.")

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying 469

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole chord, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, including a triplet of eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. The top staff features a mix of chords and moving lines, with a triplet of eighth notes. The bottom staff continues the harmonic support with chords and single notes.

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

The third system concludes the chorus. The top staff ends with a final chord and a fermata over the last note. The bottom staff provides the final accompaniment, ending with a sustained chord.

This chorus from a longer song has become a popular sung prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit. Easily memorized, it makes a very suitable sung response at appropriate points during a series of prayer concerns or with repeated singing can open or close a time of prayer.

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"

647

Give Thanks



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart; give thanks to the Ho-ly One;



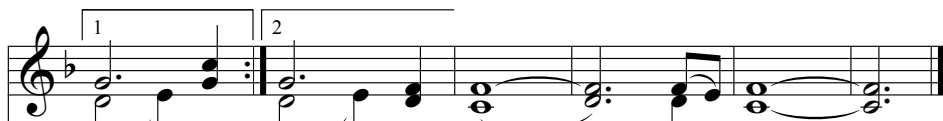
give thanks be-cause we're giv-en Je-sus Christ, the Son. Give



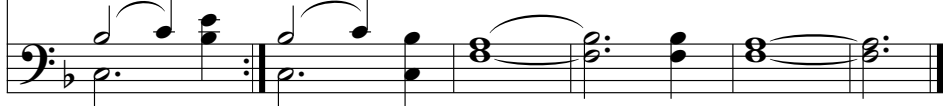
Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the



poor say, "We are rich be-cause of what the Lord has done for



us!" And us!" Give thanks. Give thanks.



Drawing on language from 2 Corinthians 6:10 and 12:10 as well as Psalm 126:3, this short and repetitive song can be easily memorized. The simple vocabulary makes it suitable for multigenerational use, reminding all ages how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective.

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.