

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEBANON, TENNESSEE

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

11:00 a.m.



THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Buttstedt

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (from Isaiah 64:1-4)

Van & Carol Turner

Leader: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!
Let us pray together.

People: God, in whom we hope, we wait for your coming to us once again.
Strengthen us as we wait, so that we will not lack any spiritual gift.
Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming. Amen.

Sing: *Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*HYMN No. 9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, on this first Sunday of Advent, we confess that we are not ready to be called into your presence. We have not prepared our hearts, our minds, or our spirits to commune with you. We have been distracted by the empty promises of the idols that surround us. We are complacent and believe we can show up at your kingdom any time we wish.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us the wisdom to grasp the magnitude of your divine judgment. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Hear the good news, people of God! Jesus came into this world to save sinners. May we be dead to sin and alive to God.

People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hymn No. 23

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,
the hoping, the longing,
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGMatthew 22:1-14

Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEMComfort, Comfort, O My PeopleHal H. Hopson

Comfort, comfort, O my people, tell of peace, now says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppression’s load.
Speak unto Jerusalem; speak of peace that waits for them;
tell that all their sins I cover; tell that warfare now is over.
Hark, the herald’s voice is calling in the dessert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey: Now prepare for God away;
let the valleys rise to meet him; let the hills bow down to greet him.
O make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
See the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad;
all the world shall see this token, God’s own word is never broken.

TIME FOR THE CHILDRENChildren are invited to come forward.

SERMONFocused on Faith: Be DressedRev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

* HYMN NO. 508For the Bread Which You Have BrokenKINGDOM

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITHTHE 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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORYGod’s Son Is ComingWalther

* DOXOLOGY

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS (Please hold the elements until all are served)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN NO. 316Breathe on Me, Breath of GodTRENTHAM

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSEO Little Town of BethlehemHymn 44

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, Still the dear Christ enters in.

POSTLUDEVoluntary in d minorLong