

ADVENT 2C
December 8, 2024



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PERRY, FL

GATHERING

P -PASTOR, L- LITURGIST, **BOLD -ALL**

PRAYER (PRAYED SILENTLY UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY) We pray: Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRELUDE "*Road to Bethlehem*" Roy Danielsen

INTROIT "*Wait for the Lord*" and "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PASSING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS/SESSION SHARING

We stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."
Lift every valley; lift every voice.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, making all things new. **Amen.**

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(silence for reflection)*

P Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly

6 Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

10 shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P We pray: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CANDLE-LIGHTING LITANY & HYMN

L God our life and our breath. **We witness your coming in the humility of forgiving others, even as we ourselves are forgiven.**

(the candle is lit as we sing v. 3 & 4 of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L We pray: **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.**

We sit.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

L 1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

(we say responsively by whole verse)

L 68 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 'Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

**73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us**

⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,

⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

**⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of
their sins.**

⁷⁸ By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break
upon us,

**⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of
death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.'**

SECOND READING Philipians 1:3-11

L 3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with
joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in
the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the
one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by
the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of
you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's
grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and
confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that
your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight
10 to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you
may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of

righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

P The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke the 3rd chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

“Wilderness”

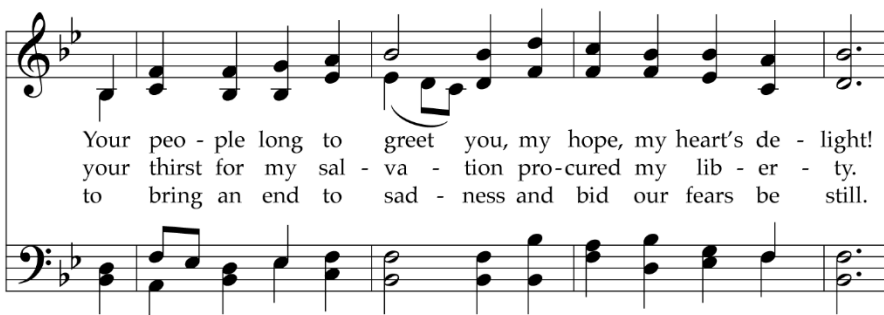
Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant

We stand.

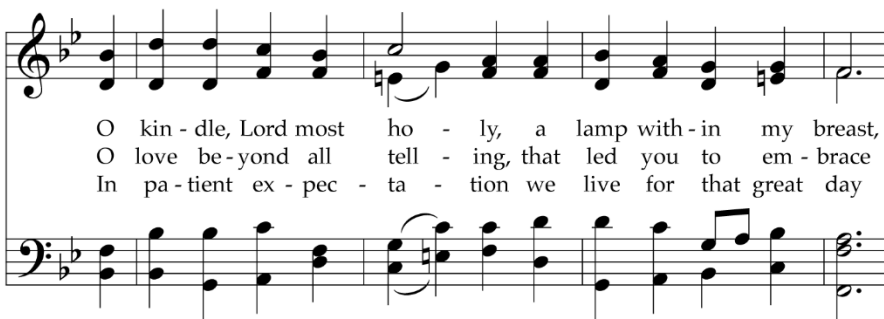
SERMON HYMN O Lord, How Shall I Meet You GTG 104



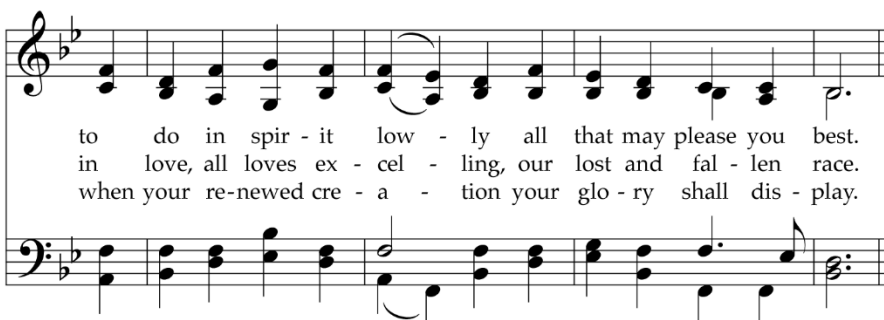
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;
3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,
O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- L Let us profess the faith, saying:
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.

We sit or stand.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- P As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.
- L *(brief silence)* For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of church of God, and for the unity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For clergy and for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For the world and its leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For all those in need, the suffering, the oppressed, travelers and job seekers, for those on our prayer list and for those we name before you now *(Pause)*. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- For people trying to rebuild their lives after experiencing devastation, abuse, violence or the betrayal of trust, that they may know the intimate

love of God, on whom they can rely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing loss and tragedy amid the busyness of the coming Christmas season, that they receive the perfect gift of Christ's peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who rest in the peace of Christ, and for all the saints who have gone before us who dwell in your holy habitation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

We sit.

OFFERTORY

L Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* R. Prichard D. Wise

DOXOLOGY**(Red Hymnal)**

#624

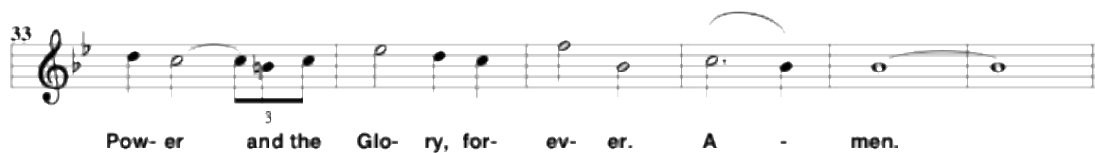
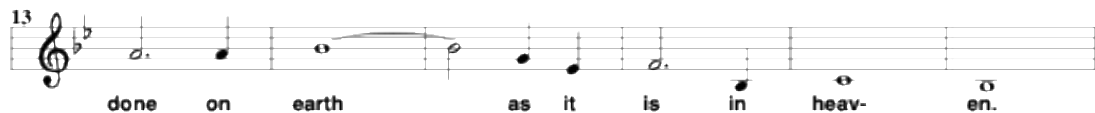
Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise *him, all crea-tures
 here be - low; praise *him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; praise
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER*(SUNG TO THE MALOTTE TUNE)*

As Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:



SENDING

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Alleluia!

SENDING HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

GTG 96

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Seek the Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE *“There’s a Song In The Air”* Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

Based on Christmas Song by Karl P. Harrington

Leading Worship: Rev. Pr. J. David Bryant, Minister; Zach Wiggins, Liturgist;
Leah Metzger, Accompanist & Director

Notes & Announcements



The Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Jo Kinsey, Debbie Knowles and Jim Wilson Jr. families. In loving, thankful memory of Ruth O. Wilson, our mother and FPC member. Thanks be to God!

- Admin committee meeting Dec 10th at 4 pm
- Worship committee meeting Dec 10th at 6 pm
- **Ushers** for December 15th: David Culpepper, Jeanne Hilgendorf, Warren Hilgendorf, Marilyn Culpepper
- **Liturgist** for December 15th: Paul Wiggins
- FPC website www.firstpresperry.org
- Send **prayer requests** to prayer@firstpresperry.org or contact Jeanne Hilgendorf

A Musical, Holden Evening Prayer

by Marty Haugen

December 15, 2024

4:30 pm

Contact Pastor Bryant and Leah Metzger for more information.

Session Committee leaders

Administration-Joey Ratliff, Michael McMillan, Chuck Eckel

Christian Education-Martha Davis

Clerk-Cindy Brown

Congregation Care-Nancy Bell

Finance-Chuck Eckel

Mission/Outreach-Cindy Brown

Worship/Music-Marilyn Culpepper, Zachary Wiggins

FPC PRAYER LIST

TOGETHER, WE PRAY FOR:

MARGIE RAWLS SIL, SHIRLEY

BLUE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

STAN AND SHONA

SHEILA BLUE

BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OUR SOUP MINISTRY

SUPPER TEAMS

PASTOR & HARRIET BRYANT

ALL GOING THRU HEALTH & EMOTIONAL ISSUES

ALL WHO LOST HOMES

TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS

TRAVELERS TO AND FROM FL

ALL HURRICANE VICTIMS

MARNE HELBERG'S SISTER

BETTY JEAN

FAMILY OF JIM CULBREATH

CHERYL RICKETSON, RECOVERY

FLETCHER'S FRIEND'S GRANDSON, CAMDEN MOSLEY

WOLFKILS DIL, MARGARET

HILGENDORFS, DR APPTS AND TESTS, WARREN, LILY

MIKE LOCKHART

RITA BENOIT

RON POPPELL

ALL AWAITING TEST RESULTS

AND, ALL UNNAMED NEEDS IN OUR HEARTS. LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER. AMEN