



1st Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023



University Presbyterian Church

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Co-Pastor: Mamie Broadhurst
Choir Director: Ross Cawthon Organist: Anne Maverick Ministers: The people of this church

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GATHERING TOGETHER

Whether you are worshiping in the sanctuary or online, at any time in the course of the service, you are invited to light a candle signifying a concern, a desire for healing, a confession, or a prayer of thanksgiving that, though private, you would like to remember in the midst of our worship.

*Please speak aloud the **bold** portions of the liturgy in the bulletin.
The asterisk * is an invitation for worshipers to rise in body or spirit as able.*

PRELUDE

Hymn Fantasy: Veni Emmanuel

Carson Cooman

Antiphonies

Sacred Music Press, 2018

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Mamie Broadhurst

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious, and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship the God of hope.

INTROIT

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Anna Laura Page

© Jubilate Music

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight the highway to our God.

Alleluia!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (*responsive*)

Ava, Bo, Collier, and Mariana

With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. **Amen.**

*HYMN No. 88 *vs. 1 and 3*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Margaret Bach

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsive*)

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(responsive)*

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"
God's love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Hymn 82

Sung through one time

**Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barbara Hoffman

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Luke 1:1-23

SERMON

Mamie Broadhurst

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

*HYMN No. 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

OFFERING of GIFTS

*The invitation to give is not one that is intended to increase our weariness.
Instead it is an opportunity to feel the deep satisfaction and joy that giving
of our time, our talents, and our treasure can provide. With hopeful hearts,
you are invited to give generously as you are able.*

INVITATION

ANTHEM

Comfort All Ye My People

Gabriel Faure

Hal Hopson

© 1977 Carl Fischer Inc.

*“Comfort all ye my people”
thus saith the Lord of Hosts.
Light comes to Zion’s darkness.
The Son of Davis is He.*

*In Bethlehem shall the star shine forth,
O city most blest of Judah;
Through thee the Lord appeareth.
All Ye who mourn, the peace of the Lord is nigh;
Darkness night, soon will fade into day.*

Peace is nigh, morning comes. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*unison*)

Holy God,

May these gifts be used to push some weariness aside.

**May they be used to provide some measure of rest and
comfort for your people.**

We give them with gratitude.

We give them with hope. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise...

... Until then, until the day when joy overpowers weariness,
when there is room for all at every table - until your promised
day - we will continue to pray as your son taught us to pray,
saying:

**Our Mother and Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION PRAYER

***HYMN No. 89 vs. 1,2,5,6**

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.

Alleluia and Amen.

POSTLUDE

Prepare Ye
Stephen Schwarz
Godspell
Valando Music, Inc., 1971

Thank you to LSU Students Ava Heath, Bo Yenoukian, Collier Roberts, and Mariana Solis for lighting our first Advent candle this morning. We wish them and all our college students the best as the fall semester comes to an end.



**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE.
ASK THE USHER IF YOU NEED A COPY.**

Worship services at University Presbyterian Church are filmed. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please speak with one of the ushers who can direct you to locations where being recorded is less likely.

CHURCH NURSERY

The church nursery is open during the worship service
for infants and children through kindergarten.

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