



Lisle

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024



University Presbyterian Church

3240 Dalrymple Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
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Pastor: Mamie Broadhurst

Choir Director: Ross Cawthon

Organist: Christopher Cunningham

Ministers: The people of this church

Audio/Visual: Leslie Green/Ignace Agbadan

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Whether you are worshipping 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.*

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Beth Paskoff

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

In this weary world,
we sing songs to lift our spirits.
In this fragile world,
we hold each other up.
In this beautiful world,
we look for God.
In this tender world,
we stubbornly cling to hope.
This is the invitation of faith. It is an invitation to begin again.
Let us worship God.

INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emanuel
Hymn No. 88
John Weaver, 1990

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

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *(responsive)*

The Reynolds Family

May hope flow forth from here. **Amen!**

*HYMN No. 124

Still, Still, Still

(use text printed below)

**Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.
In all our troubles Christ is shining,
Leading upward, faith refining.
Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lori Tucker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(unison)*

O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *(responsive)*

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Sung through one time

Hymn No. 87 *vv. 1*

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.

"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel: 2:12-13, 28-29

SERMON

Rick Pitcher

WE RESPOND WITH DEDICATION

*HYMN No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

OFFERING of GIFTS

Reflect on your response to the work of Christ in the world today, and consider making a commitment of time, talents, and resources. If you choose to contribute to the work of Christ through UPC at this time, online giving is available. See the announcements for more information.

INVITATION

ANTHEM

Savior of the Nations, Come

Arr. Georgiann H. Toole

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*Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, make Earth your home,
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.*

*From the Godhead forth you came
And return unto the same,
Captive leading death and hell
High the song of triumph swell!*

*You, the chosen Holy One,
Have o'er death the victory won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?*

*Brightly does your manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not hate o'er cloud this light;
Ever be our faith so bright.*

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Old Hundredth

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Holy God,

We give these gifts with thanks for the many gifts you have given us. May they be used to provide a measure of rest and comfort for your people. 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 our thanks and praise...

Loving God,

We come to the Table today longing for a new beginning....

...With hope in our hearts we pray and we begin again, weaving our hearts and our voices together as we pray the prayer your son taught us, 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

All worshipers are invited to come forward (lectern/left side) or backward (pulpit/right side) by the center aisle, take the bread, dip it into the cup, and return to your pew by the side aisles. You can also remain seated and be served. UPC uses gluten free bread and grape juice as our communion elements.

COMMUNION PRAYER

*HYMN No. 89

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

CHARGE and BENEDICTION

As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one another.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world of dead ends,
Adent invites us to begin again.
So start here.
Start now.
Start with hope and begin again.
In the name of Christ, our new beginning.

Alleluia and Amen!

POSTLUDE



Lisle

WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE WATERS

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Isaiah 43:1-7

*Ink dyes and gold resist on silk,
with digital collage*

When we began working on our Advent theme, we were inspired by the storied tradition of quilting. Though I am not a textile artist—and can hardly use a sewing machine—I turned to the fabric medium I enjoy: painting with ink dyes and gold resist on silk. As I read through my assigned scriptures for this series, I created a list of the images and patterns I found in my texts: water, fire, spirit, fruit trees, mountains, stars, sky. Then, I stretched my silk and began to paint, creating a series of 6 small banners.

Next, I moved into a digital space. I photographed my silk banners and then began drawing quilt patterns with my stylus pen onto my iPad, collaging the photos

of my silk paintings into the designs. As I digitally stitched together patterns and geometric shapes, I realized I was quilting, just in my own unique way.

This piece is meant to be a visual prayer, inviting you to internalize and personalize the words of blessing from Isaiah 43. And so, I invite you to take a deep breath in, then let it out, and pray with me:

*“When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.” (Is. 43:2a)*

Rest your gaze on the art, following all the shapes with water imagery. Notice the textures and the colors. Offer a prayer for all the ways you feel as if you are drowning or being overcome by forces beyond your control. Now pray for God’s waters to nourish you. Ask for a raft. Imagine you are floating gently down a river.

*“When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.” (Is. 43:2b)*

Look again at the art. With your eyes, trace all the areas you see fire imagery. Offer a prayer for all the people and places in the world experiencing devastation and destruction. Now ask God to renew all the earth. Ask for healing. Ask for protection for those who are hurting.

Lastly, inhale deeply, and release. You are precious in God’s sight. Imagine God gazing upon you, delighting in all that you are. You are a blessing. Let that truth buoy you as you breathe each new breath. —Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Rick Pitcher is a retired Presbyterian minister and Licensed Professional Counselor. He has been a member of the Presbytery of South Louisiana since his ordination in 1976 and served pastorates in Jennings, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge before transitioning to specialized ministries in pastoral care and counseling. He is a graduate of LSU, Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond (D.Min.), and Our Lady of Holy Cross College in New Orleans (MA in Marriage and Family Counseling). Rick has been active in the life of UPC for many years, particularly in the choir and Adult Sunday School. He is married to Debbie Abernathy, and they have an adult son Greg, who now lives in North Carolina.



**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.

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