

SUN 11 AM
DECEMBER 8, 2024

Worship Service for THE LORD'S DAY
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*As a community of Christ's disciples, we joyfully participate
in Christ's mission of love and peace, transformation and hope.*

Welcome to Worship

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.

* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

WELCOME AND INVITATIONS

Rev. Ginger Thomas

INTROIT

Come Now, O God, When Our Love is Forsaken
*Come, when we squander the freedom you gave us. Come, break
the systems of sin that enslave us. Come, though we wonder if you
can still save us. Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

David Bjorlin

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Maura Bell and Logan Newman

The prophet Malachi calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's coming salvation. "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 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" (Malachi 3:2b-3).

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to righteousness, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

*HYMN 133 (verses 1-3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER AND CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, it is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace. We confess to you the ways in which we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,

we confess to you, O God of peace.

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year, your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us, help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace, O God. Instill within us your peace and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you. Help us to be more peaceful so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God. **Thanks be to God!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to exchange signs of reconciliation and peace with others.

SCRIPTURE READING

Malachi 3:1-4 (OT, pg. 889)

Jon Sweringen

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley

Children attending Kids' Church may follow Pastor Lori.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:68-69 (NT, pg. 56)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Receiving the Gift of Peace

Rev. Roger Owens

*HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

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.

OFFERING

Please complete a connect card and place it in the offering plate.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.

Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed;

Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.

Some say love, it is a razor that leave your soul to bleed;

It came, a flow'ret bright; Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need;

Amid the cold of winter; I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed.

When half-spent was the night.

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance;

It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance;

It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give;

And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long;

Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'ry where.

And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong;

True Man, yet very God,

Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow;

From sin and death He saves us,

Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose.

And lightens ev'ry load.

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN 147 (verses 1-2, 5-6)**

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

He Came Down
*He came down that we may have peace;
Hallelujah forever more.*

Traditional Cameroon Melody

***POSTLUDE**

Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor (ginger@fcpc.us)
Rev. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor (roger@fcpc.us)
Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor (rebecca@fcpc.us)
Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families (lori@fcpc.us)
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)
Maura Bell and Logan Newman, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading
Jon Sweringen, Lay Scripture Reader
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
Howard Havlicsek, Audio Engineer
Jenny Clark, Livestream Producer (jenny@fcpc.us)
Don Moyer, Caretaker (don@fcpc.us)

For Children and Families during 11:00 AM Worship

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship with their families, and we provide the following opportunities for children and families:

Children age 3 to 5th grade are invited to sign up for Kids' Church prior to worship near the entry to the Sanctuary. Children may join Pastor Lori at the front of the Sanctuary for a Children's Message during worship (except on the first Sunday of the month). Following the Children's Message, children are led to the Lowest Level, where parents/guardians can pick them up following worship.

Nursery care is available for ages 0-3 in Room 109 (near the main entrance).

The Comfort Space is available in Room 107 (next to the Nursery) to comfort or feed a child and watch the worship service via livestream.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance.
If you have a hearing aid that has the T-Coil activated, please ask for a T-Coil neckloop receiver.

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FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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