

SUN 8:15 AM
DECEMBER 8, 2024

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



CUP & LOAF 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

WELCOME AND INVITATIONS

Rev. Ginger Thomas

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Rebecca and David Clements

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 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

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 READINGS

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

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

OFFERING

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

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

OFFERTORY

Gloria

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

This is Christ's table, and all who seek to follow Christ are welcome at this table, regardless of their age or understanding. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to participate in the sacrament. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.

GREAT 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.**

Blessed be your name, Lord God of time and eternity...

...and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

God of the future and the past...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Refining Spirit, you burn away all that does not endure..

...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today we will receive communion by intinction. Starting with the front row, come forward by the middle aisle with open hands. Receive a piece of bread, dip it into the juice, and eat. Gluten-free sealed elements are available on the table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah

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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)
Rebecca and David Clements, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)
Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir
Don Moyer, Caretaker (don@fcpc.us)

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