

SUN 11 AM  
DECEMBER 22, 2024

*Worship Service* for THE LORD'S DAY  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

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**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 God

Come, lead us out of our self-serving madness.  
Come while the world is enshrouded in sadness.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness.  
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Morgan, Tim, Evelyn, & Gretchen Oberlin

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day." (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

**God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

## \*HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

## INVITATION TO SILENT PRAYER AND CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Christ, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with obedience, as Mary; with love, as you have loved us. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. 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.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley

*Children attending Kids' Church may follow Pastor Lori.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2-5a (OT, pg. 865)

Walter McGhee

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:46b-55 (NT, pg. 57)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****SERMON**

A Love Story

Rev. Roger Owens

**\*HYMN 110**

Love Has Come

*BRING A TORCH***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**

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

*Elizabeth Poston*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit always green: The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit always green: The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell, His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell. The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought; For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive: This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive: Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

**\*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 143**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

*REGENT SQUARE***\*BENEDICTION****\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

**\*POSTLUDE**

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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)  
Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families (lori@fcpc.us)  
S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)  
Morgan, Tim, Evelyn, & Gretchen Oberlin, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading  
Walter McGhee, 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)

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## 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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