

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Janet & Thom Olshewsky

***HYMN 88** (vv. 1, 2, 6, & 7) *O Come, O Come, Emanuel* VENI EMANUEL

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.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God,
you call us to wake from our sleep,
to see the nearness of your salvation,
yet we confess that we drift through our days
lulled by routine, distraction, and self-concern.
Forgive us for our complacency,
our unprepared hearts,
and our unwillingness to follow your way with urgency and joy.
Clothe us in Christ,
that we may walk in the light,
ready to meet you
in every moment you arrive.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 113** (refrain) *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Bright Canaan* (The Chancel Choir) Early American Hymn, arr. Parker & Shaw

O who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the land of Canaan;
I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see,
I am bound for the land of Canaan.

Refrain:
O Canaan, bright Canaan,
I am bound for the land of Canaan.
O Canaan it is my happy home,
I am bound for the land of Canaan.

I'll join with them who've gone before,
I am bound for the land of Canaan;
Where sin and sorrows are no more,
I am bound for the land of Canaan. (Refrain)

Our songs of praise shall fill the skies,
I am bound for the land of Canaan;
And higher still our joys they rise,
I am bound for the land of Canaan. (Refrain)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 1034
page 903

SCRIPTURE READINGS Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *On Staying Awake* Rev. Boggess
Advent Series: Learning to See in the Dark

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Janet Olshewsky

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 OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Let the Life I've Lived Speak For Me* Spiritual, arr. Walker
(Moira Corbett, soloist)

***DOXOLOGY** *What Child Is This* GREENSLEEVES

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Janet Olshewsky

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God's life and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 360** *Christ Is Coming!* UNSER HERRSCHER

Christ is coming! Let creation
from its groans and labor cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.

With that blessed hope before us,
flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the song.

Long your exiles have been pining
for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining,
soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Paul Manz

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street • Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 • www.firstpressarasota.org

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