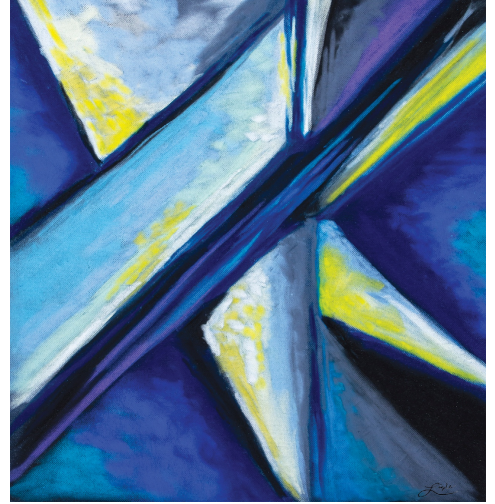


Order of Worship

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



Prelude

Gesu, Bambino, arr. DeFord

Advent Wreath Lighting (Responsive)

One: Hear the song of the angels from Luke 2, verse 14:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors”

All: We long for your peace to flow like water, quenching our thirst.

Teach us to live as peacemakers, agents of your reconciling love.

Come, Lord Jesus, and make peace our way.

Hymn No. 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of Peace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

Moment for Silent Confession

Kyrie No. 121, v. 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Declaration of Forgiveness

Gloria No. 104, v. 3

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Word to Grow By

Anthem

I Wonder as I Wander, arr. Pederson

Second Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Sermon

The Story Isn't Over, Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed

Anthem

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, arr. Forman

Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

Adapted from the *Confession of 1967*

God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. Already God's reign is present, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal p. 35

Offertory

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy, arr. Thomas (11:00)

Doxology No. 144, v. 4

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Communion

(9:00)

Hymn No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Benediction

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High, Balcombe

Liturgist: Anne Leader. Guest Violinist: Dr. Grace Kim.

Advent Wreath Lighters - Members of the 2026 Confirmation Class
Abby Kate Forster, Alice Fukai, Joah Hall, Maddy Hochard, Jonathan Holman, Hannah Reed

Welcome to worship at First Presbyterian Church, Auburn

New to the Presbyterian Church USA? We would love to share with you more about our Reformed tradition of theology and worship.

New to Auburn, or simply new to this congregation? We'd love to share with you more about the rich history of this church and its valuable contributions to the Auburn community.

Searching for a church home? We would love to join you in that search and help discern whether First Presbyterian may be where God is calling you to be nurtured, inspired, and empowered.

Please take a moment to fill out our [online Friendship Register](#) or you may contact either of us directly.

Revs. Nick and Kathy Reed, Co-Pastors



ADVENT POINSETTIAS



The Poinsettias have been given to the Glory of God

in memory of Edward Lee Spencer, Jr., and Ruth Spencer by Spence and Kim Spencer

in memory of Jim Foil by the Foil Family

in memory of their parents - Marvin and Inez Reaves, and Alvin and Lois Hecathorn -
by Jim and Lynn Hecathorn

in honor of Gail Dillard by Nancy and John Sanker

in memory of Danny Price by Clay and Julie Price

in memory of Tom Spears by Dibba Spears

in honor of Henry Brandhorst by the Walkabout Bible Study Class

in memory of Nancy Calcott, Henry Helmke, Jim Foil, Nancy Gamble, Jo Cooper, and Joyce Bravaldo
by the Walkabout Bible Study Class

in honor of Bob and Karen Cochran by Bob and Kay Recknor

in honor of Brian, Christy, Kelly, Steve, and Clint by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Sandra Recknor by Bob and Kay Recknor

in memory of Hazel and John Goodman by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Donald Brinkley by Margaret Brinkley and family

in memory of Reginald Don Gilbert by Hardy Gilbert

in memory of David Killough Searcy by Hardy Gilbert

in memory of Johnny Huggins by Harriette Huggins

by Jay and Susie Gogue

in honor of Joel and Lynda Tremaine with love by Sara, Ella, Emily, and Claire

in honor of Marine Cpl. Christopher D. Bordoni by Wendy Cleveland

in memory of Timothy Boosinger by Marcia Boosinger

in memory of Alton, Christine, Sonya, George, and David French by Linda Stark

in honor of their family by Mike and Carolyn Williams

in memory of friends lost in 2025 by Mari and Terry Ley

in memory of Joseph Barnett Farr by Kimberly Farr

The two large poinsettias are given in memory of Frances Vowell by her family
and the Frances Vowell Flower Fund.