

Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...  
And pray to the Lord on its behalf

Jeremiah 29:7



# First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301-2487  
304-343-8961  
www.firstpresby.com

Pastor:  
The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

Ministers:  
All members of the congregation

## The Worship of Our Lord

First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022  
10:30 AM

Welcome to First Presby! We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the end of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read the electronic newsletter "First Presby Press" and the weekly Green Sheet. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors. Thank you!

### REFLECTION FOR WORSHIP

The following scriptures and reflection are provided for silent meditation during the prelude.

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Mathew 24:36-44

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation; Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Charles Wesley

\* indicates congregation standing, as able

### THE CHURCH GATHERS TO . . .

#### PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern" J.C. Bach

WELCOME Pastor Myers

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

#### PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Tammy Hovis

One: The time has come to wait for an age to end and a new life to begin.

All: The time has come to listen for the thunder of change and the whisper of hope.

One: The time has come to watch for a dead branch to blossom and a barren tree to bear fruit.

All: The time has come to be awakened and wait in hope!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Moses Family

One: The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All is loved." The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching." Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen." We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord's coming.

One: As we light our first Advent candle,

All: we pray for holy hope of God.

One: Come now, O Child of Mary

All: Come now, O Prince of Hope.

CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the garment of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

All: We confess our sins to God, trusting that God will forgive us and remember our sins no more.

O God,

We are steeped in a world of violence.

War is one of the first things we learn,

And we let it work its way into our lives.

Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams,

And we become accustomed to cruelty.

Forgive us.

Wrest our weapons from our hands,

And show us how beautiful life can be

When you forge us into instruments of peace.

*(Silence is kept for personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Beloved! In your baptism you were bathed in light and clothed with grace. Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ! Know that you are forgiven, and live in peace.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever. Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #347 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (vs. 1)

PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.*

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 2:1-5 (OT p. 631) & Psalm 122 (OT p. 571)

Tammy Hovis

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
(Jesus, the Light of the World)

George D. Elderkin, Charles Wesley

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44 (NT p. 27)

Pastor Myers

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN  
*(Children in ages 4-10 are dismissed to Children's Church in Room E-117 or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)* Pastor Myers

SERMON "Embracing Hope Against All Evidence to the Contrary" Pastor Myers

\*HYMN #756 O God of Every Nation LLANGLOFFAN

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—paraphrased from the *Confession of 1967 - PC(USA)*  
Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

### DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

### JOYS & CONCERNS

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

SUNG RESPONSE TO PRAYER #84 Creator of the Stars of Night (vs. 1) CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM  
*Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you, hear us when we call.*

#### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Chorale on "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland" J.S. Bach  
*(Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.)*

\*Offering Response #607 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow OLD HUNDREDTH  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

\*HYMN #348 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

\*BENEDICTION Pastor Myers

\*POSTLUDE Rorate Coeli Pietro Yon  
*(from First Advent Suite)*

*Our worship continues in our service to others.*

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer today honor God and serve as a blessing to you.  
Worship is broadcast at 11AM on WCHS-580AM  
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel.

All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.

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#### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers  
Tammy Hovis  
The Moses Family

#### THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist

#### ALSO SERVING TODAY

Chiming the Trinity: David Cottrell  
Greeters: Mary Jean Davis, Art Doumaux  
Laura Ceperley, Tammy Hovis

Audio & Video: Byron Goodew & David Cottrell  
Custodial Services: David Feibelmann

#### WORSHIP NOTES

Please remember that we worship every Sunday Sabbath Day, and that is available via YouTube and the radio broadcast. Thank you for connecting for worship with First Presby.

#### Staff of First Presbyterian Church

William Myers, Pastor/Head of Staff  
Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist  
Jenny Pitchford, Financial Services Manager  
Diana Vorhees, Office Administrator  
Margie Myers, Interim Christian Education Director

Anne Moses, Director of the Preschool  
Bernard Wooten, Preschool Custodian  
Steve Barnett, Custodial Services  
Eric White, Custodial Services