

Our Service of Worship for November 28, 2021  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
Westwood First Presbyterian Church                      Cincinnati, OH



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*Sleepers Awake! A Voice is Calling*”—J. S. Bach

During the Prelude, please take a moment to prepare for worship.

Ringling of the Tower Bell

Introit: “*A Flickering Candle*”—Stephen Folkemer

\*\* Call to Worship—Lighting

Reader 1: This is the first Sunday of Advent when we read again of how God’s people waiting in hope for the coming of the Messiah. Advent is the season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

*Reader 2: This time of waiting is also a time for us to be working for peace among the nations, and peace with each other. It is a time for us to change our priorities as we walk in the light that God gives us.*

Reader 1: As part of our Advent waiting we celebrate Christ's coming by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the hope Christ bring to the world. The round shape of the wreath reminds us of the unbroken love of God. The green branches speak of new life, and the candles proclaim the light that came into the world with Jesus Christ.

*Reader 2: Today we light the first candle. The flickering flame reminds us that our waiting is a time of both contemplation and action, a time of hope. (Light candle)*

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Sovereign God, through your Spirit you spoke to prophets, and the people prayed and waited for a Messiah to come. Through your Spirit you spoke to Mary and Joseph, and they responded and waited for their child to be born. Through your Spirit, speak to each of us that we may feel your presence and be filled with hope in our Advent waiting this year. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

\*\* Hymn No. 2: “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*” (both verses) \*

A Time of Confession

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession (responsive)

We are captive, exiled, O God, because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you. We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have, too often, substituted our judgment for yours. We are lost, in need of guidance.

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.**

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Moment of Silent Confession(*Silent, personal prayers may be offered.*)

Assurance of God's Love and Mercy (responsive)

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

**Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, hear the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God! Come Lord Jesus!**

May the peace of Christ be with you now and throughout the season.

**And also with you.**

\*\* Response to God's Grace (unison)

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36* \*

Sermon: "*With the World Enough*"

A Time of Offering

[No collection will be taken. Please place your offerings in the collection plate just outside the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity!]

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope and we give in hope. Hope for your coming reign; hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Anthem: "*O Come, Emmanuel*"—arr. Alice Parker

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

[During the pause in the prayer, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the Lord's Prayer, offered in unison.]

**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.**

\*\* Hymn No. 15: "*Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*" (all verses) \*

Charge and Benediction

Response: "*Rejoice*"

Postlude: "*Allegro*" from Concerto in G—Vivaldi

Where indicated (\*\*) please rise, and stand as you are able.

\* The words to the hymns and the Scripture reading are included in the order of worship.

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# Come Lord Jesus!

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Leading Worship This Morning:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi  
*Pastor*

Heather MacPhail  
*Organist/Director of Music Ministries*

Erin Olakanmi  
*Lay Worship Leader*



Prayer Requests and Announcements

- ✚ November West-Fed Food Pantry: pasta (rigatoni, linguine, farfalle, etc.) & pasta sauce
- ✚ Prayers are requested for:
  - ♥ Kathy Kiefer, who has been hospitalized with kidney issues.
  - ♥ Wendy Beckman, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
  - ♥ Sharon Crowell, recuperating from knee replacement surgery.
  - ♥ Pat Mueller, recovering from a successful double transplant.
  - ♥ Linda Kugele who is dealing with breathing issues.
  - ♥ Betsy Forte, Chancie Brown's sister, dealing with personal issues.
  - ♥ Carol Hunt, Dave Hunt's mom, recovering from a series of falls.
  - ♥ The discernment team: Steve Beckman, Mary Ellen Betz, Jane Colarossi, Kent Kochheiser, Ann Regan, Phil Zorn, Bruce Smith, Jan Tepe, Bode Olakanmi.
- ✚ The Flowers this morning have been donated:
  - ♥ In memory Margaret Brewsaugh Ulrich by the Ulrich family.
  - ♥ In memory of Charles Jackson, Rhonda Boddy's father and Margaret Miraglio, Paul Boddy's mother, by the Boddy family.
- ✚ **Monday School** will continue tomorrow, Nov. 29 at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please use the link previously sent out. If you need it resent, please let me know.
- ✚ Set up for the **City Gospel Mission Christmas Store begins this Friday, Dec. 3.**
- ✚ Thanks to all who helped with the "**Hanging of the Greens**," yesterday, especially to Linda Gardner for organizing and leading it!
- ✚ **The Presbyterian Women luncheon and program will take place this Thursday, Dec. 2.** If you have any questions, or would like to make reservations, please contact Diane Ringshauser at 513-923-41223, or at dringshauser@gmail.com.
- ✚ **We will have poinsettias available for purchase** to decorate the sanctuary in the weeks before Christmas in honor—or in memory—of family and friends. There will be a separate order form in the bulletin and Parish Bell. Please have your order and payment by Dec. 12.

MARANATHA

## Hymns

### **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus—No. 2 (both verses)**

1. Rejoice, 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.
2. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.



### **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers, —Hymn #15 (all verses)**

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear!  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh;  
Up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.
2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;  
And wait for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;  
Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!
3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee!



## Scripture Readings

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36**

<sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



### Moment for Mission—First Sunday of Advent

The expression “Maranatha!” was a key watchword and prayer among the early Christians. It is an Aramaic word which is a combination of two words “*marana—tha*” which literally mean “*the Lord comes*” or in the imperative case “*Come, Lord!*” Paul the Apostle used this Aramaic word at the end of his First Letter to the Corinthians.

Many Christians today use this expression during the Advent season. While many Christians today celebrate Advent in the weeks preceding Christmas, the early Christians used the expression “Maranatha! “Come, Lord!” as a regular prayer throughout the year, especially during their weekly celebration of the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist.

~ Don Schwager

Advent is a time of waiting, filled with hope, for the One who is to come. When we live in love and act in hope, when we gather again and again at the table to remember what Jesus did and to know that Jesus is with us once again, we are people of Advent hope. We tend to think of the month of December as the Christmas season, and the secular world ironically reinforces that premature celebration, if only to entice us to early and excessive spending. But Advent is a different kind of time...Our task, then, here, on the near edge of Advent, is to give our lives each day to God's own dream of compassion and peace, and to persist in living our lives in hope.

~ Kate Huey

Kneeling with kings at the crib of my Savior,  
Singing in praise with the angels on high;  
Here with your people, wondering about you,  
I’m thinking of Jesus and wanting to cry!

Father, I love you for giving me heaven  
Wrapped in the form of a newborn so small,  
But how could you stand to know all that would happen  
When you left Him in Bethlehem in an animal stall?

Treasured in glory and praised by creation  
God as a baby to humans on loan;  
Why didn’t you run down the stairway of heaven,  
Snatch up your God Child and take Him back home?

What’s that you’re saying? You left Him to save me?  
You love me as much as you love your sweet Son?

**You gave me your heart when you gave me your Jesus**  
And my Father’s full giving is only begun.

I bring you my life and the years lent for living  
For your crib-and-cross sacrifice tear me apart;  
When you count all my tears as I kneel at this altar,  
May you know it worthwhile when you look at my heart!

~ *Kneeling with Kings*, Jill Briscoe

# Advent Word Search

N	P	E	A	C	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	L
F	H	O	E	A	O	N	K	R	C	V	U	W	L
R	A	C	J	N	E	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
A	I	H	E	M	S	T	E	T	N	E	N	N	I
N	S	R	S	E	S	R	E	S	E	G	O	L	D
K	S	I	U	H	N	E	M	E	S	I	W	E	N
I	E	S	S	E	Y	S	Y	A	E	O	J	V	I
N	M	T	R	L	L	E	R	M	N	Y	R	O	T
C	S	M	A	H	T	P	R	W	J	G	R	L	L
E	A	A	M	T	M	O	H	Y	O	J	E	I	A
N	C	S	A	E	S	H	E	R	P	H	L	L	H
S	L	Y	A	B	W	R	E	A	T	H	S	R	S
E	N	O	W	A	D	V	E	N	T	S	C	N	A
S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	E	H	A	A	A

STAR  
SHEPHERDS  
ANGELS  
PEACE  
GOLD  
BETHLEHEM  
JESUS  
FRANKINCENSE  
JOY  
CANDLE  
NATIVITY  
CHRISTMAS  
WREATH  
LOVE  
WISEMEN  
MESSIAH  
MYRRH  
ADVENT  
HOPE

