

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3rd, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Diemer

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Wednesday Night Bible Study Group

✦RESPONSE

MERLE'S TUNE

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light
Hope blooms within this candle, O weary world, rejoice!
Together let us praise him, O come and raise your voice**

✦CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

One: In God's house, we can be weary.

All: We can be anxious. We can grieve.

One: In God's house, we can be honest.

All: We can be inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful, connected or curious, and everything in between.

One: This is God's house. We are welcome exactly as we are.

All: Let us worship our loving God.

✦HYMN OF PRAISE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

#82

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are weary. Forgive us for pushing our weary bodies too hard. Remind us that we deserve sabbath rest. Forgive us for creating so many distractions when our minds feel overwhelmed and saturated with bad news. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you. Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves when our hearts long to feel the joy of this season. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist. Forgive us when the weary edges of our faith struggle to hold on to hope. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Send us your Spirit this day, that we might rejoice in the midst of our weariness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

✦ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: Family of faith, no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin, no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions, no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?", God's love keeps showing up for us.

All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

✦RESPONSE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#143, v. 4

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

✦PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Registration Pad found at the end of the row and pass it along.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Following this time, children through 1st grade are invited to Children's Church.

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory

Pavane

G. Young

✦Response

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

**Praise the One Creator, praise the Living Christ
Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night
Praise when we are weary, praise in times of joy
Praise the Lord with all our strength, heart and soul and voice**

✦Prayer of Dedication

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

p. 540 OT

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:5-23

p. 56 NT

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

✦Hymn of Preparation

Prepare the Way, O Zion

#106

Great Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Communion of the People

O Emmanuel

Karen Marrolli

Prayer after Communion

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who hears our prayers, who knows the shape and form of our weariness. We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us, not just survival and existence. We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world – a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit. And so we return to this space. We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin, and we trust that God is already at work. Thanks be to God for his unending, enduring love.

✦HYMN OF SENDING

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

#107

✦BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

✦POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Johann Walther

✦PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT, AS YOU ARE ABLE

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

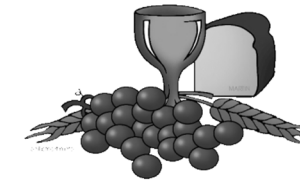
Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

John Lasater – Organist

2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Ushers: Betsy Foster, Cleston Jones, Bill Ragsdale, and Mary Kay Sullivan

Technicians: Elizabeth Seastrunk (video); Dale Henley (audio)



Communion: We welcome all who follow Jesus, regardless of denomination, to the Lord's Table, including children. Parents who wish to celebrate communion as a family may get their children from the nursery during the singing of the Communion preparation hymn. **Communion will be received via intinction this morning.**

WORSHIP

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS: Our Advent sermon series is *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* Drawn from a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, *O Holy Night*, we are reflecting on how we hold space for both our weariness and our joy during the Advent season, and how these two things live together in our lives.

Dec 3	Luke 1:1-23	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Acknowledge Our Weariness</i>
Dec 10	Luke 1:24-45	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Find Joy in Connection</i>
Dec 17	Luke 1:57-66	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed</i>
Dec 24 (am)	Luke 1:46-55	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Sing Stories of Hope</i>

THE FLOWERS THIS WEEK are given to the glory of God.

COMMUNION WILL BE RECEIVED VIA INTINCTION this morning. Please proceed down the center aisle, break off a piece of bread, dip it in the cup on the side on which you are seated, and return to your seat via the side aisle. A gluten-free communion station is provided to the left. If mobility or health concern is an issue for you, there are self-serve cups available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS Order your Christmas Poinsettias by December 13. Order in Realm (Events tab) or check our E-news to get a digital copy of the order form. Forms are also in the Narthex and in the church office.

USHERS NEEDED Are you interested in serving 2nd Presbyterian in a position that allows you to meet and welcome both members and guests to Sunday Worship? Kim Hudgens and Janis Smith, who coordinate the usher schedule, are recruiting new members of the ushering team. This is a low-stress way to make a personal contribution to church worship. Please contact Kim (kimhudgens05@comcast.net or 865-567-6477) or Janis (smithjb1@gmail.com or 615.260-7784) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

SUPPORT

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT: If you have not already pledged online through the church website, or through the Giving tab in your Realm account, or with a physical card, there is still time. Please let us know how you plan to support the ministry and mission of 2nd Presbyterian as soon as possible. Thank you for your commitment to 2nd Presbyterian Church.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are excited to have you with us today and hope you feel at home! We are honored you are here and pray you will feel God's presence in this place. If you do not have a church home, we would love for you to be a part of the 2nd Pres. Please let us know a bit about you by completing a Visitor's Card or by filling out your information in the Friendship Register. Children are welcome in worship. There is a **family worship area** down front. There is also a "crying room" next door in the Library where the service is live streamed. **Children's Worship Bags** are available in the Narthex. Children ages 2 through 1st grade are invited to **Children's Church** following the children's time in worship. A **nursery is available** for infants and children through age 2. **Hearing Devices** are available if needed.

CONNECT

2ND WEDNESDAYS @ 2ND PRES: This month's 2nd Wednesday program on December 13th is a Carol-Sing, along with a Reader's Theater recreation of the Christmas story. This will be an intergenerational activity. Come and sing your favorite Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story with a fun and hilarious twist!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: This year we are returning to our pre-pandemic practice of caroling to some of our homebound members. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 on Sunday, December 17th and travel together to some of the homes and nursing homes of our homebound members. Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in this wonderful ministry of spreading Christmas cheer to those we don't get to see on a regular basis!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL MEET on Tuesday, December 12th from 10:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All men and women of the church, both members and visitors, are welcome to attend. We are examining Jesus' encounters with those who were ostracized in Palestinian society. This month we will see how Jesus demonstrated his acceptance and care of a suffering leper in Luke 17:11-21.

GROW

THE FAITH SCIENCE & THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets in the Barbour Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. This class studies current events through the lens of faith using a weekly curriculum called *The Wired Word*.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY: Join Kathy and Geoff Duggan for an informal Bible study on the Book of James on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Bring your Bible and a sandwich and join us as we learn from each other through discussion of God's word. Everyone is welcome, but those who need childcare should text Kathy Duggan at 861-441-8683 prior to the meeting. We hope to see you there!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS: Our Advent Devotional is available in digital format in the "Members" section of our website. Printed copies are available in the Atrium and Narthex. If you need a large print version, they are available in the Church Office.

ADVENT CALENDARS: Each day during December we will post an activity or writing prompt on our social media pages to guide you in celebrating Advent. Printed copies of these prompts will also be available in the atrium and in the narthex.

GO

THE ARTS & CRAFTS TEAM of the Presbyterian Women's is making winter hats for school children at West View Elementary. The GO Team is asking the congregation to contribute mittens or gloves for those students. Hats, mittens, and gloves can be hung on the Christmas tree in the Atrium or dropped in the bins in the Narthex. Thanks for keeping the West View students warm this winter!

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 3rd

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future Class (Barbour Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 4th

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (Barbour Room)
- 3:00 p.m. BUDGET & FINANCE team meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 5th

- 4:30 p.m. CONNECT team meeting (Barbour Room)
- 5:00 p.m. FACILITIES team meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 6th

- 2:00 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium)
- 5:30 p.m. Pre-School Christmas Musical (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study (Library)

Thursday, December 7th

- 1:00 p.m. GO team meeting (Barbour Room)

Saturday, December 9th

- 8:30 a.m. Workday (Outside) Rain date if needed

Sunday, December 10th

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future Class (Barbour Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:30 a.m. Cookie Swap during Fellowship (Mary Chambers Room)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Amy Cross, Caroline Buckner, Sue Jacox, Janis Smith, Arlys Milligan, and Brice Gilmer.

*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request. Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Ministers:	Members & Friends of the Congregation	
Teaching Elder:	Tim Reynolds	treynolds@2ndpres.org
Teaching Elder:	Sarah Morgan	smorgan@2ndpres.org
Director of Music & Arts:	Matthew Mimbs	mmimbs@2ndpres.org
Organist:	John Lasater	jdlatater77@gmail.com
Student Ministries Director:	Holly Grimm	hgrimm@2ndpres.org
Preschool Director:	Linda Sue Byrd	lsbyrd@2ndpres.org
Church Administrator:	Bonnie Smith	bsmith@2ndpres.org
Media Coordinator:	Marta P. Villalta	mvillalta@2ndpres.org
Pastor Emeritus:	Dr. Ed Carver	moxcar@eatel.net

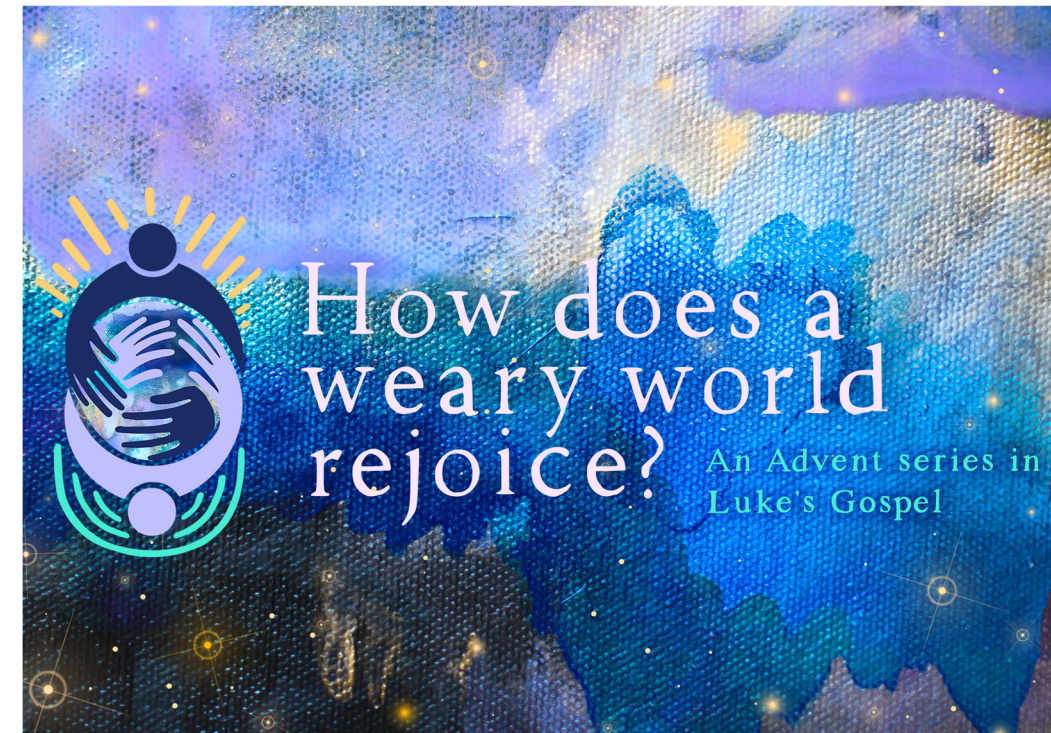
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instagram.com/2ndpresknox/ www.youtube.com/@2ndPresKnox/

GIVE ONLINE: Visit us at www.2ndpres.org/give, text *2ndPresKnox* to 73256, or scan the QR code.



WI-FI NETWORK: The network is "Second Presbyterian Church" and the password is *Psalm100*.



2nd Pres Knox

WELCOMING + FAITHFUL + HOPEFUL

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

Organized 1818

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

2829 Kingston Pike + Knoxville, TN 37919

Church Office: 865.523.2189

Preschool: 865.523.9997

Church Office Email: bsmith@2ndpres.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

December 3, 2023