



REID MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

December 1, 2024

SOUNDING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Please sign and pass the friendship pad to your neighbor.

PRELUDE

An Advent Prelude
Dr. Rob Foster, flute

Charles Callahan
(1951—2024)

INTROIT

A Processional for Advent

Rachel Aarons
(b. 1984)

*Come, thou redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.*

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of waiting, of longing, of looking for you to come into our world, we are seeking light.
In our own lives

We are seeking light.

In our neighborhoods

We are seeking light.

In our families

We are seeking light.

In our work

We are seeking light.

In our nation

We are seeking light.

In our world

We are seeking light.

Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened. Ask and it will be given to you.

Jesus Christ you are the light of the world.

May we have eyes to see you and ears to hear you. Come, bring your light into our world today. Let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Boyd Lien

Lord of the generations, we are the moment of all our ancestors gathered in worship here and around all your creation. We are the bearers of faith in this time and we will pass this mantle onto our children and children's children. Remind us of the linking of our lives to all who have waited on the Lord and will carry the light of hope into future days until Christ comes again in glory. Enfold us in this mission of proclamation and bearing witness even when no one else seems to be listening. Give us perseverance and patience, for the Lord is good and his steadfast love endures forever.

*SILENT PRAYER

*DECLARATION OF PARDON²

In those days the children of the Lord will be saved and will live in safety. This is the promise brought forth by Jeremiah and fulfilled in Christ, for we are the inheritors of grace.

And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND LABORS

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

John Bell
(b. 1949)

*Comfort, comfort now my people; speak of peace—so says your God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness burdened by a heavy load.
To Jerusalem proclaim: God shall take away your shame;
Now get ready to recover, guilt and suffering are over.*

*Hear the herald's proclamation in the desert far and near.
Calling all to true repentance in the desert far and near,
Oh, that warning cry obey! For your Lord prepare away.
Let the valleys rise to greet him and the hills bow down to meet him.*

*Straighten out what has been crooked; make the roughest places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble; live as fits God's holy reign.
Soon the glory of the Lord shall on earth be shed abroad.
Human flesh shall surely see it; God is ready to decree it.*

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Joy Maple

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Casto-Waters

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

SERMON

HYMN 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...as we lift up the words that Christ taught all his disciples, saying...

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 357

The Days are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*All who are able please stand

Participating in Worship



Preacher

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Worship Leaders

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien

Ms. Joy Maple

Musicians

Dr. Wayne Lord

Dr. Rob Foster

Chancel Choir

Acolyte

Jack Mills

Friendship Pad Pick-up

Leslie Owen

Ushers

Larry Clarkson

David Curley

Ann Overstreet

Bob Speaks

Baxter Bailey

Gary Loyd

ADVENT

One of the fondest Advent traditions for both congregations and families is the lighting of Advent candles. The tradition reaches back to pre-Christian northern Europeans. During the darkest days of winter, they lit as many as twenty-four candles on an evergreen-covered wheel or wreath. By lighting a candle daily, they marked time, anticipating the return of the sun's light and warmth. By the 1500s, both Lutherans and Catholics adapted the Advent Wreath as a devotional way to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

The symbols of the Advent Wreath are interpreted in many ways. The circle of evergreens reminds Christians of the eternal and ever-renewing promises of Christ. The lighting of candles, spanning the season, acknowledges the deepening of our preparation and the increasing light that bursts forth at Christmas.

The colors of the candles also vary. Often the candles are purple or blue, noting the season's expectations of royalty, liberation, penitence, redemption, and hope. For the third Sunday of Advent, occasionally a pink candle is lit. This recognizes a shift of Advent themes in the Bible. The first two Sundays focus on the Bible's prophetic vision of Christ's future and final return; on the third and fourth Sunday, the readings focus on the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The third Sunday has been identified in some traditions as "Gaudette," meaning rejoice! The fourth Sunday traditionally recounts God's call to Mary and her faithful response or a reading from the Gospel of John on the love of God. Finally, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, a center white candle is lit. The light of Christ is fully present. Jesus is born.



Hearing assistance. Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.