

December 1, 2024; 9:00 am
First Sunday of Advent – HOPE – Communion

We Gather Together

Welcome to today's Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on zoom, watching on our YouTube channel, or listening on KFIZ, we are glad you are here. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew. We extend a special welcome to our visitors, and if you have not already received your welcome gift, please pick one up as you leave the sanctuary after worship.

Copies of the Glory to God hymnal and Common English Bibles are available at the back of the sanctuary for your use during worship.

Gathering Music: *please join in singing the following Christmas Carols*

GTG 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?" vs. 1 & 2

GTG 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs. 1 & 4

GTG 143 "Angels, From the Realms of Glory" vs. 1 & 4

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin

Ringling of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Lighting the Candle of Hope

The Larson Family

Reader One: From deep in the past, Jeremiah calls to us, "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" (Jeremiah 33:14). Beloved, the days are surely coming when the yearning of the land; the longing of the sun, moon, and stars; the desperate need of the people of earth for flourishing and peace will receive their fulfillment.

Congregation: While fear, anxiety, misinformation, and suspicion surround us on every side, we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

Reader Two: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming and are already here—the days when God’s kin-dom of love, justice, and mercy will reign.

Light the first candle of the Advent Yule Log during the singing of “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah.”

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/come-let-us-adore-him-advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2024>

***Sung Response: GTG #85**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v. 1

***Call to Confession**

Carol W.

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days. But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach God, who waits - for us!

***Prayer of Confession**

Carol W.

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

***Assurance of Pardon**

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

***Sharing God's Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response GTG 113 "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

(chorus only)

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Psalm Reading: Psalm 25:1–10 (Common English Bible)

(page 502 in the pew Bible, page 681 Common English Bible)

I offer my life to you, Lord.

My God, I trust you.

Please don't let me be put to shame!

Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!

For that matter,

don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame; instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.

Make your ways known to me, Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—

because you are the God who saves me.

I put my hope in you all day long.

Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—

they are forever!

But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing.

Remember me only according to your faithful love
for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

**The Lord is good and does the right thing;
he teaches sinners which way they should go.**

God guides the weak to justice,
teaching them his way.

**All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful
for those who keep his covenant and laws.**

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25–36 (Common English Bible)

(page 85 in the pew Bible, page 1281 Common English Bible)

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.”

Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

“Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Children's Time

Jennifer Zander

Sermon: “Stand Up Straight”

Rev. Dr. Craig Alwin

***Sung Response: GTG #412 “God Reveal Your Presence”**

We Respond to God's Word

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

EXCERPTS FROM THE CONFESSION OF 1967

The church confesses its faith when it bears a present witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ.

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of mankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for men when the gospel is proclaimed and believe. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to men, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which men know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are.

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God's sign that he will consummate his work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists his will and disrupts his creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in men 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.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

The purpose of the Confession of 1967 is to call the church to that unity in confession and mission which is required of disciples today. God's reconciling work in Jesus Christ and the mission of reconciliation to which he has called his church are the heart of the gospel in any age. Our generation stands in peculiar need of reconciliation in Christ.

Offering: “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel” *arr. by Camil Van Hulse*

***Offertory: GTG 145** “What Child is This” vs. 3

***Offertory Prayer**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

GTG 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1-3

(Remain seated, we sing this song as the table is being prepared for communion)

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

This is neither a Presbyterian table, nor even the church’s table. This is the Lord’s table. It is prepared for those who love the Lord and for those who desire to love him more. All who believe in Jesus Christ are welcome to share in this meal.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise,
O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe.**

We give thanks, O Lord, that the days are surely coming when all the world will see the fulfillment of your promise of salvation. You alone are our righteousness, our only hope for justice and peace.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In Christ, we have seen the first fruits of your holy realm. Though heaven and

earth may pass away, Christ's word stands secure. Even now, we look for the day of his coming in power and great glory.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this loaf and this cup, and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these elements taken from your creation, that this loaf and this cup may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ. By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Teach us to pray night and day that we may see you face to face. Strengthen us in holiness, faithfulness, joy, and love so that we may be ready at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Joining our voices with those from around the world, we pray as you taught us, saying...

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.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD - (words of institution]

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

SHARING OF THE MEAL

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.
Come, share in the mystery of this holy meal.

The Bread of Life

The Cup of Salvation

Music during communion:

I Wonder As I Wander

arr. by Michael Hassell

PRAYER OF THANKS

We give you thanks, O Lord, for receiving us at your table. We thank you for the life you have bestowed on us and the life that you have promised to us. We are called to be your body, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim our hope in Jesus, crucified and risen. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

***Sending Song GTG 97 “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”**

***Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude: “Aberystwyth”

arr. by Healey Willan

Prayers of the People

Arnold L.

Bob & Ollive B.

Brian C.

Chastity G. & Joan S.

Corinne C.

Danielle B.

Darren B.

Dick and Maryann*

Elaney, Gina, Randy*

(Andy L. granddaughter, daughter, sil)

Elias B* (Laurie C grandson)

Gib D.

Jesse F.

Joan K. (Marcus A. Mom)

Kathy A* (Kevin B sister)

Liam A.

Lynn M.

Marie L.

Pass Family

Pat D.

Pat M.* (Bonnie H sister)

Paul W.

Qualine S.* (Jodi A mom)

Sherry M.

Steven B.* (Kevin B. nephew)

Vern A.* (Debra S dad)

Forrest V. in the death of Dirk V. Obituary is available [here](#).

The names in bold are new to the prayer list. The names with an asterisk (*) are not church members. However, a church member has received permission to ask that they be lifted in prayer.

If you or someone you know wants added to our prayer list, contact a Deacon or the church staff. Prayer request cards are available in the Prayer Box located in the Narthex, in the church pews, or online ([click here](#)). You can place your prayer request in the offering plate or the lock box at the church office door. For electronic prayer requests, please complete the form and click submit.

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please call the office (920.922.0425), press #2 for Pastoral Care.

WEEKLY STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 24,2024

Individuals in Person: 108

Zoom Households: 2

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
11/24/2024	\$287.00	Tithes/Offerings
	359.00	Special Offerings
11/18-22/24	\$ 581.00	Vanco Online "Tithes/Offerings"
	10.00	Special Offerings
	\$1237.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK

Financial Giving and Gratitude

You can give online at www.fdlpresbyterian.org Giving page. (Click on 'Online Giving'.) You can also give by cash or check on Sunday morning, or by mail. We are so very thankful for your contributions that help us do God's work in our church and in our community.

GETTING CONNECTED:

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YouTube
[First Presbyterian Church, Fond du Lac](https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchFondDuLac)

December

Deacon of the Month:
Judy Dassow

Elder of the Month:
Terry Rehn

STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Craig R. Alwin
pastor@fdlpresbyterian.org

Jennifer Zander
jzander@fdlpresbyterian.org

Kris Bartelt
kbartelt@fdlpresbyterian.org

Mary Robotka
mrobotka@fdlpresbyterian.org

This Week

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am

10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:45pm
1:00-2:00pm
3:00-4:30pm

December 1 First Sunday of Advent

Worship with Communion
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Sermon Discussions
Carol W. facilitator, Carol S. host.
Sunday School in the Gathering Room
PYA Lunch and Activities
PYA Angel Tree Shopping
Cantata Rehearsal

Monday

9:00-10:00am
10:00-11:30am
1:00-2:30pm
3:00-4:30pm

December 2

Angel Tree Planning Meeting
Staff Meeting
Deacon Meeting
Loving Team Membership Meeting

Tuesday

7:00-8:00pm

December 3

Feed My Starving Children MobilePack Planning Meeting

Wednesday

8:00-9:00am
1:00-2:30pm
2:30-3:30pm
4:00-5:00pm

December 4

Men's Breakfast
Growing Connections Planning Meeting
Personnel Team
Handbell Rehearsal

Thursday

10:30-2:30pm
1:00-2:00pm
5:00pm

December 5

Flying Geese Quilt Guild
Serving Team
Warming Shelter Meal

Sunday

9:00-10:00am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
10:15-11:15am
11:30-12:30pm

December 8

Worship
Fellowship Time
Growing Connections-Angel Tree, Mary Ellen M presenter
Sunday School in the Gathering Room
Learning Team Meeting

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS PARTY

SUNDAY, DEC 8TH

1-3PM

AGE 3 THRU 4TH GRADE



We are offering parents an afternoon out as we share the joy of the season with their kids. A snack will be provided. Please call the church office if you have any questions.

Please register by
Thursday, December 5th
First Presbyterian Church
1225 Fourth Street 920-922-0425

Parent Name _____

Child's Name _____ Age ____

Child's Name _____ Age ____

Child's Name _____ Age ____

Happy Birthday Jesus
Party Please register by
Thursday, December 5th

