

“Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in this season, the whole Church is called to be hope, for itself and for the world.” – Pope Benedict XVI



November 28, 2021

First Sunday in Advent

- Hope -

WE GATHER IN GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Tingle

CHIME THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Toccata on “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence/Of the Father’s Love”

arr. R. K. Owens

Diane Combs, organ

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Stan and Pat Briggs

Hope is a light,
Hope is a light.
Hope is a light to show the way,
Hope is a light to show the way.
Light the candle of hope,
Light the candle of hope.

Today we light the first Advent candle, the candle of **HOPE**.
With believers around the world, this light helps us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.
Isaiah 9:2: **“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in a land of deep darkness — a light has dawned.”**

We pray together:

O Lord, as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love will help us become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts in anticipation of your promised coming, for Jesus is our Hope. Amen.

We sing, responsive:

Hope is a light; **Hope is a light.**
Hope is a light to show the way; **Hope is a light to show the way.**
Light the candle of hope; **Light the candle of hope.**

**OPENING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

#82

1. 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 own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION, *in unison*

Long-expected Jesus, how often we forget you are the Hope of the world. Forgive our self-focused desires and our constant chasing after things that don’t last. Take away everything that displeases you. Release us from our fears and sins so that we will find our rest in you. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers. Amen.

—A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION—

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**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.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, *The Scots Confession, Chapter 1*

**We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust.
Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one is substance and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.**

**PASSING THE PEACE

And now, as people who are loved and forgiven by the grace of God, we pass the peace of Christ, remembering God’s command to love and forgive one another.

WE LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM “Creators of the Stars”

Josh Blakesley

Sanctuary Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

SERMON

“Watch and Pray”

Rev. Holly K. Davis

— PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE —

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.**

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF RESPONSE, *seated*
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

#104

1. O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart’s delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.

2. Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,
That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.

3. You come, O Lord, with gladness,
In mercy and goodwill,
To bring an end to sadness
And bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation
We live for that great day
When your renewed creation
Your glory shall display.

GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Comfort, Comfort These My People”

Diane Combs, organ

arr. Michael Burkhardt

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

****CLOSING HYMN**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

#93

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to thee; here, Lord abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

**** BENEDICTION**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, sung

“May the Hope of Jesus Find You”

Randy Edwards

Sung first by the choir, then with the congregation.

**May the hope of Jesus find you;
May the peace of Christ now bind you;
May the joy of Christ surprise you;
May the love of Jesus Christ surround you ev’ry day.
Share the coming of the Lord today.**

POSTLUDE

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

arr. Paul Manz

**** If able, please stand for these portions of the service.**



*Flowers in the sanctuary this morning
are given as a gift to God and
all those worshipping here today.*



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Church Staff

*Rev. Holly K. Davis, Pastor
Joel Lillethun, Music Director
Diane Combs, Music Director
Anthony (“Tony”) Caldwell, Sexton
Kristi Siplon, Office Manager*

First Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church, USA

November 28, 2021

First Sunday in Advent



Our Mission:
To love God and love our neighbors

Our Deacons

Bill Covin	828-226-2476
Lee Hutchison	704-650-4999
Sylvia Lonnee	828-506-9344
Janet Tingle	828-400-6890
Stan Briggs	941-544-8100

Our Church Elders

<i>Clerk of Session</i>	RON TINGLE (2021)	828-400-6900
<i>Building & Grounds</i>	RICK CROSKERY (2021)	252-413-8737
<i>Discipleship</i>	CHARLOTTE CASEY (2023)	828-246-5557
<i>Elder for Deacons</i>	RUTH CALDWELL (2021)	828-400-2640
<i>Finance</i>	HUGHES ROBERTS (2022)	828-507-7309
<i>Missions</i>	BETH JOHNSON (2023)	828-550-3118
<i>Worship</i>	GREGG MILLER (2022)	704-778-6315

Elder of the Month for November—Hughes Roberts