



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
December 3, 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

Jesus is our Hope

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC	Savior of the Nations, Come (Hymn 14)	J. S. Bach
TOWER BELLS		
PRELUDE	Christmas Bell Fanfare	D. Wagner The Handbell Choir
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS		
PASSING OF THE PEACE		
ADVENT WREATH – LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE		Jerry Cirka & Alison Ann Kelly

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 80

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim;

shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let your face shine that we may be saved.

Then we will never turn back from you;

Give us life, and we will call on your name.

Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 2 (V.1-2) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, we await the coming of the Messiah who will be born to deliver us, to set us free. But Lord, we admit that waiting is hard work for we have become accustomed to getting our stuff now! Immediately! And we want free returns! We really don't seem to care who we put at disadvantage as long as we get our stuff now. We really don't seem to care if the person at the front of the line is fumbling because of old, arthritic fingers. And for many reasons, we are already tired of waiting for Christmas Day. Forgive us, Lord, for our impatience, for our need for immediate gratification and for our disregard for others. Send your Spirit to help us accept that the arrival of the Christ Child in our lives is worth the wait. In Jesus' name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, Jesus is surely worth the wait. For through Christ, God looks past our impatience and self-centeredness and sees us and accepts us as forgiven and redeemed people. Hallelujah!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON

Hey Sleepy Head; It's Time to Wake Up!

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch
The Chancel Choir
Peter Becker, piano

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
No more dying there, we are going to see the King.
No more dying there, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Soon and very soon.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE PRAYER OF GREAT 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 right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER

With fresh eyes and renewed hope, we join our voices with those around the world and with your heavenly chorus of all the saints to sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The elements will be served to you at your seat; please hold them and all will partake together.

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 GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 20 (V.1-3)

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying

arr. Max Reger

The flowers on the communion table are given by Elizabeth Campbell and Peter Becker in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Bud Martin, Guest Organist

The Handbell Choir

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Noralee Manzek, Liturgist

Carol Schroeder and Ruthann Arras, Communion Servers

Bud and Linda Martin, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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