

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD’S LOVE

GREETING (BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5)
“Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again. Rejoice! The Lord is near.”

WELCOME / OPENING PRAYER

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP**
Leader: During Advent we watch for hope in the midst of despair.
People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.
Leader: During Advent we watch for forgiveness in the midst of rebellion.
People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.
Leader: During Advent we watch for peace in the midst of conflict.
People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.
Leader: During Advent we watch for the presence of God in the midst of a fallen world.
People: We watch in hope for the Lord; O come, Emmanuel.

✦ **SONG OF PRAISE** HYMN # 154 – O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN # 152 – PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Almighty God, you set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy. Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness; your people long for justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your ways as we wait in hope for the light of the world. Hear now, our silent prayers . . .

PROCLAMATION OF GRACE

Leader: Watch in anticipation, believing that God is bringing you new hope and peace.
It is a gift, one that cannot be earned—it is a gift especially for you.
People: Praise be to the Giver of all good gifts. Amen

✦ **GRATEFUL RESPONSE** HYMN # 734 – GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

✦ **PASSING OF THE PEACE** “May the peace of Christ be with you....And, also with you”
At this time, the congregation may greet each other and exchange signs of peace.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S LOVE

SCRIPTURE READING ISAIAH 2:1-5 Jane Bohnstedt, reader
Leader: Blessed are those who hear and keep what is written,
in the light of Jesus, the Word made flesh.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
All children are invited to come to the front for the Children’s Message. Afterwards, preschool and elementary-aged children may go to Children’s Chapel.

(As the children come forward for the Children’s message, ushers will collect any written prayer requests. Forms are located in the pew pockets near the center aisle. Please raise your hand to let the ushers know to collect your prayer request.)

✦ **SONG OF FAITH** HYMN # 166 – WAIT FOR THE LORD

SCRIPTURE READING MATTHEW 24:36-44

SERMON “WATCH IN HOPE” Jennifer Ackerman

WE EMBRACE GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING
In response to God’s love, we are invited during this moment to reflect on how we might give thanks to God through the sharing of our time, talents, and treasures. (During this time, offering plates will be passed down the pews. There is no obligation to give. You may also choose to indicate your presence by placing a blue connect card in the offering plate.)

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 ARE SENT OUT TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE IN THE WORLD

✦ **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

✦ **SONG OF DEDICATION** HYMN # 160–AWAKE! AWAKE AND GREET THE NEW MORN!

✦ **POSTLUDE**

✦ *Those who are able, are invited to stand.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Warm Welcome to everyone and especially to all our guests including our guest preacher Jennifer Ackerman. We are thankful that you have joined us for worship today! We hope that you feel welcomed and loved. If you are looking for a church home, then we invite you to join us in the mission and ministry at Smith Memorial Presbyterian Church. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship for

Jennifer Ackerman is an Assistant Professor of Preaching and Director of an institute for preaching at Fuller Seminary, where she is committed to helping preachers and church leaders do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. After spending the last decade in Pasadena, CA, Jennifer returned to her beloved Portland last year and continues her teaching and leadership remotely, working with students and pastors across the United State and sometimes internationally. Jennifer has been ordained in the PCUSA since 2015. Prior to that, she worked as a professional musician, performing in theaters around the country while serving churches as a worship and music director. She is delighted to be worshipping today with the Smith Memorial community.

Prayer Requests may be placed in the basket in the entry foyer before the service begins, or given to an usher as the children move forward for the children's message. Special forms are not required but can be found on the table in the entry foyer and in the pews.

Children's Chapel/Sunday School: Our program for children continues today. Children will be dismissed after the children's message to attend. (Please note that on communion Sundays, the first Sunday of the month, we encourage families to worship together and thus there will be no children's chapel on those Sundays.)

November is stewardship month. Pledge cards should be in your bulletin. Thank you all for your generous support this year. We appreciate any contribution whether it is your time, talent, or treasures. But, it is helpful for our planning process to have a general idea of what our financial resources might be for the coming year. Turning in a pledge card is an important way to express that what we do matters. And, you can turn in your pledge card anytime this month.

Weekly Bible Studies: All are welcome to join an existing Bible study! The Wednesday morning Bible study meets weekly from 10:10 to 11:30 am. Contact Ruth Jones at 503-719-5240 for the location and more information. The Thursday evening Bible Study is taking a break until January.

Food Pantry Volunteer Opportunities: If you would like to meet some of our community neighbors while volunteering at our food pantry, the food pantry has an ongoing need for volunteers on Fridays from 10 am to noon and on Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon. Please call the church office at 503-667-6800 and leave a message or send an email to eastcountyfp@gmail.com.

Christmas Crafts and Chili: Join us Sunday, December 4th at 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Contact Janet Pomazi and Janet Emch to host a craft table or to ask questions.

Conchords Chorale Winter Concert: Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 pm the Conchords Chorale will present a winter concert. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors, and plan for an afternoon of Christmas and holiday music and fun. A free will offering will be received.

Next Week's Sunday Servants: Greeters, Robert and Sally Heine; Ushers, Robert and Leesa Pomazi; Special Helper, Steve Marker; Scripture Reader, Connie Erickson; Refreshments, Outriggers. If you would like to volunteer as a Sunday Servant, please fill out a blue Connect Card (on clipboards in the pew pockets) and drop it in the offering plate.

Masks are welcomed but not required at this time. They are still strongly encouraged for people with underlying health conditions such as cancer, heart disease, or diabetes; people 65 years or older, the unvaccinated; and the immunocompromised.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27, 2022