

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Karen Witte

Organist: Ann Swisher

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Marilyn Biery (b. 1959)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Joy Edgar & Justice Gard
Written by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

RESPONSE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” GTG #85
(vs 1)

Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord –

ALL: Hear my voice, Lord

One: I call to you for mercy -

ALL: Open your ears, Lord

One: If you keep count of all our sins,

ALL: Who could stand?

One: But there is forgiveness with you,

ALL: and so we honor you.

One: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

ALL: and in his word I hope.

One: More than watchmen wait for the morning

ALL: my soul waits for the Lord.

One: Here is our hope – in the steadfast love of the Lord,

ALL: and his great saving power.

One: God alone will save us

ALL: from all our failings.

(vs. 1, 3, 6, 7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God's Word assures us:

ALL: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One: In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

CONFESSION

God who is with us, and God who is on the way, we confess that we do not wait or watch for you. Works of darkness encumber and distract us.

Petty jealousies, hard quarrels, ambitions rooted in selfish desires— they command our attention.

We have ceased to hope for peace and harmony among the nations or for security apart from the defenses we construct. We hear your promises, Lord, but dare not trust them. God of power and love, awaken us to hope and fit us for your coming, that we may watch for you with confidence and joy.

(moment of silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Your sins are pardoned.
The penalty is paid.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PEACE OF CHRIST

*GLORIA PATRI

GtG #581

CHOIR ANTHEM “Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God”

G.F. Handel, arr. Hal Hopson

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES Psalm 137:1-4

Page 973

Lamentations 3:19-26

Page 1279

SERMON SCRIPTURES Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:2-4; 3:17-19

Page 1456

Matthew 24:36-44

Page 1539

SERMON “Mourning...Until”

*RESPONSE HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

GtG #83

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.

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.

STATEMENT OF FAITH (Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4)

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" GtG #606

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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" GtG #123

(vs. 1, 3-5)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake!”

Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954)

Announcements

Join us for Coffee, Conversation

Please join us after the service for coffee, snacks, and conversation. You can contribute your culinary gifts (or shopping gifts) by volunteering to bring treats for Fellowship Time. Sign up on the sheet on the coffee table.

Family Promise Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to provide dinner for Family Promise Dec. 4, 5 and 6. You can choose to provide an entrée, salad, bread, or dessert for the dinners, which will feed four adults and four small children.

We also need two overnight hosts to stay at First Christian Church, 311 Power St., on Nov. 27 or 28. A signup sheet for meals and hosts is in the Fellowship Room. Contact Joy Edgar at 406-202-2200 or Lucille Letcher at 406-465-0467 for details.

‘Hymns of Advent’ Begins Monday

The “Hymns of Advent” discussion begins on Monday, Nov. 28, at 1 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Using our Advent study book, “Songs for the Waiting” we will gain a deeper appreciation of the scriptures and lyrics in four different Advent hymns. Discussion will be led by Pastor Janet and will last an hour.

No singing required! On Nov. 28, we will focus on devotion #3 and #4. Please come as you are able! Come, even if you haven't read the focus devotions. Come, even if it is occasionally!

You Are Kind & Generous

Your compassion for the victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida allowed FPCH to send \$405 in financial support to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for that cause. This is a great example of caring for “the least of these” as we were instructed to do in Matthew 25. Thank you!

Your generous donation for the Peace and Global Witness Offering also gave us the opportunity to support our local YWCA in its efforts for peace in our local community. The total offering was \$245, which generated \$61.25 for the local charity. Your Mission Committee allocated an additional \$38.75, so the YWCA will receive a check for \$100. Thank you!

Food Share Matching Funds

Please make your donation to Helena Food Share **no later than today** (11/27) to have it included in FPC Helena's donation check and receive matching funds from Town Pump. Thank you for your generosity to those in our community who are hungry.

Coupon Collection

We need your help bringing in coupons for those in need here in our community. Please drop them off in the basket in the lobby as you come in the front door or contact Tonna Strasko for more information.

Festival of Angels Dec. 3

The "Festival of Angels," a fundraiser for Family Promise of Greater Helena, and Lutheran Disaster Response, will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1000 Helena Ave. The festival, which runs 9 a.m. to noon, will feature a Scandinavian Bake Shop and handcrafted items for sale. All proceeds will be donated to Family Promise and Lutheran Disaster Response.

John Floridis Benefit Concert

John Floridis will present a concert to benefit Family Promise Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 512 Logan Street. John will be joined by cellist Jennifer Slayden and drummer Ed Stalling in presenting this evening of acoustic guitar carols and songs of darkness and light. Tickets are by donation at the door. The concert will also be live-streamed on St. Paul's YouTube channel: [StPaulsUnitedMethodistChurchHelena](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStPaulsUnitedMethodistChurchHelena).

Deacon's Benevolence Fund

Is it the end of your pay period and you need some groceries? Have you had an unexpected dental emergency? Did your medical expenses exceed your budget this month? Need gas? Did your refrigerator blow up? We can help!

The Deacon's Benevolence Fund is for folks who attend our church, and there are No Strings Attached! If you need help, call the pastor's office. She will contact the Benevolence Committee and explain your need. We will get a check cut to the doctor, the dentist, Home Depot, your grocery store, etc. This is held in the strictest confidence and not even the committee knows who we are helping.

This is possible because of the generous contributions of the people of First Presbyterian. God bless our donors!

Calling All Shutterbugs!

We are building a photo library of church activities, and we welcome your contributions! Whether you are playing cards, gathering mission items for delivery, or joining together at

a church potluck, please snap some photos and send or bring them to the church office. Photos are an excellent way to record church history and share with others the ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Helena. Thank you!

This Week

11/28 "Hymns of Advent" Study 1 p.m.

11/30 Choir 6:30 p.m.

12/1 Rebekah Circle 10 a.m.

12/2 Bible Study 12 Noon

Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.

12/4 Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m.

Social Time 11 a.m.