

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Jim Meyer

Organist: Ann Swisher

*Please meditate silently, or listen to the prelude
as you prepare your heart for worship.*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE “Savior of the Nations, Come” J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Maddie Gard & Hezekiah Rowland
Written by Rev. Karen Ware Jackson

RESPONSE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” GtG #85
(vs. 2)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the season of holy waiting.

All: We wait for the One on whom the Spirit of the Holy God rests.

One: We watch for the One who judges with righteousness and decides with equity.

All: We wait while the night begins to glow with the light of day.

One: Come let us walk in the light of God!

*GATHERING HYMN “Prepare the Way, O Zion” GtG #106

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

All: Holy God Most High, we confess that our feet have wandered from the way of peace into aimless detours and crooked diversions.

We need the cleansing and refining that you alone can graciously give if ever we are to be made pure and blameless. Forgive our foolish sins and faithless deeds.

Let your tender mercies dawn upon us, that we may seek you and serve you without fear with our whole lives.

(moment of silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Do you feel it? God's tender mercy rests on you, heals you, transforms you. Do you see it? God's Light breaks into our lives, and shows us the way.

All: Renewed and made whole, we see the path God has prepared for us - the way of grace, the way of hope, the way of service, the way of peace.

Thanks be to God.

PEACE OF CHRIST

*GLORIA PATRI

GtG #581

CHOIR ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Steve Dunn, based on 12th Century Latin

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Psalm 122

Page 966

SERMON SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 11:1-11

Page 1076

Matthew 3:1-12

Page 1499

SERMON

“Come, Spirit of the Lord!”

*RESPONSE HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

GtG #377

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—APOSTLE’S CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

J.S. Bach

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

COMMUNION OF GOD’S PEOPLE

*Please come forward to receive the bread, take a cup, and return to your seat.
Eat your bread as you feel led. We will drink the cup together.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON LORD’S PRAYER

**All: 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 tempta-
tion, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” GtG #113

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Lord Christ, the Only Son of God” J.S. Bach



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.

A signup sheet for meals is in the Fellowship Room. Contact Joy Edgar at 406-202-2200 or Lucille Letcher at 406-465-0467 for details.

'Hymns of Advent' Meets Mondays

The "Hymns of Advent" discussion meets Mondays, 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! Please come as you are able! Come, even if you haven't read the focus devotions. Come, even if it is occasionally!

Christmas Giving—Back Packs for the Homeless

Our Christmas Giving Project this year reflects our Matthew 25 calling to provide for the homeless in our community. We are working with United Way of the L&C area to collect and distribute back packs filled with essential items. A list of requested donations is available in the fellowship room. Please leave your donation under the tree in the fellowship room by Dec. 28. Monetary donations are also welcomed and may be made through the offering plate, the website (specify Back Packs for Homeless) or directly to United Way of L&C Area.

Christmas Joy Offering

Fliers with information about the Christmas Joy Offering are available in the fellowship room today. When we give to Christmas Joy, we share our blessing with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future. Half of the offering will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian schools. The other half assists current and retired church workers with critical financial needs. Please give generously.

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).

Christmas Baskets

The Deacons invite you to help fill and assemble Christmas baskets for congregational members and friends. Please bring in gifts for the baskets before Dec. 11. We will assemble the baskets Sunday, Dec. 11, after the service. Contact Candace Coefield for details.

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.

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!

Share Your Photos!

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

12/5 "Hymns of Advent" Study 1 p.m.

12/6 Sarah Circle 10 a.m.

Pinochle 1 p.m.

Personnel 5:30 p.m.

12/7 Choir 6:30 p.m.

12/9 Bible Study 12 Noon

Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.

12/11 Worship 10 a.m.

Social Time 11 a.m.

Christmas Basket Assembly 11:15 a.m.