

# First Presbyterian Church of Martinsville



December 7, 2025

Worship 10:00 am

[www.fpcmartinsville.org](http://www.fpcmartinsville.org)



# The Worship of God

## Second Sunday of Advent



### Gathering

#### The Call of the Carillon

Let the carillon bells invite us into the sanctuary, where we prepare our hearts in silence to worship the Living God.

#### Prelude

*Savior of the Nations, Come (BWV 599)*

Johann Sebastian Bach

### Preparing to Hear the Word

#### Welcome

Rev. John Erickson

#### Remembering our Baptisms

#### Opening Prayer

#### Call to Worship

Lynette Liberge

In the wilderness a voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

**We come to clear a path for justice, to make room in our lives for God's transforming love.**

John proclaimed a baptism of repentance—an honest turning toward God.

**We come ready to turn from all that harms, and toward the One who brings life.**

"Bear fruit worthy of repentance," the prophet declares.

**We seek to grow in compassion, generosity, and the courage to do what is right.**

The One who is coming baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

**Spirit of God, refine us, renew us, and kindle hope within us.**

In this season of Advent, the Holy One gathers us in.

**We worship with expectation, preparing our hearts for Christ's arrival again.**

#### Lighting of the Advent Candle

I will lead the blind

by a road they do not know,

by the paths they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,

the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I will do

and I will not forsake them.

Isaiah 42:16, NRSV

Silent Reflection  
Passing of the Peace

♦ *Gloria Patri*

579

*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.*

## The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Lynette Liberge

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-5

Pew Bible: OT p.602

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Special Music

*Bethlehem Down*

Peter Warlock

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Pew Bible: NT p.2

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Children's Message

Austin Hartman

Sermon

Rev. John Erickson

## Responding to the Word

♦ Hymn

*Prepare the Way*

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♦The Apostles' Creed (Ecumenical)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
and in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;  
He descended to the dead; On the third day he rose from the dead,  
He ascended into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty,  
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**





## Gathering of Tithes and Offering

Offertory

- ♦ Doxology

592

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

## Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

### Sending

- ♦ Hymn

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

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## Benediction

### Benediction Response

### Lead Me Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-eous-ness, make Thy way plain be - fore my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord, On - ly that mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8  
MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

LEAD ME, LORD

## Postlude

*(During the postlude, you are invited to remain seated.)*

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Burton Bumgarner

- ♦ All who are able, please stand



Rev. John Erickson, Pastor  
Elijah Buerk, Music Director / Organist  
Steve Ward, Media Director