

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Service for the Lord's Day

December 19th, 2021 | 11:00 a.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Magnificat on the First Tone, BuxWV 204" Dietrich Buxtehude

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Evan Henke and Elizabeth White-Pultz

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in love.

Out of love God speaks through the prophet Isaiah in chapter 7.
God will give you a sign.

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel, which means "God is with us!"

May the God of love shine in this world.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Let us worship God!

HYMN 88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

Please stand in body or spirit.

stanzas 1,4, 6, and 7

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of generations,
your promises come to birth in surprising ways.**

Our hearts are heavy with our sin.

We have turned away from you and neighbor.

Our hearts are weighed down by what our lips fear to name.

We have forgotten your ways.

Have mercy on us.

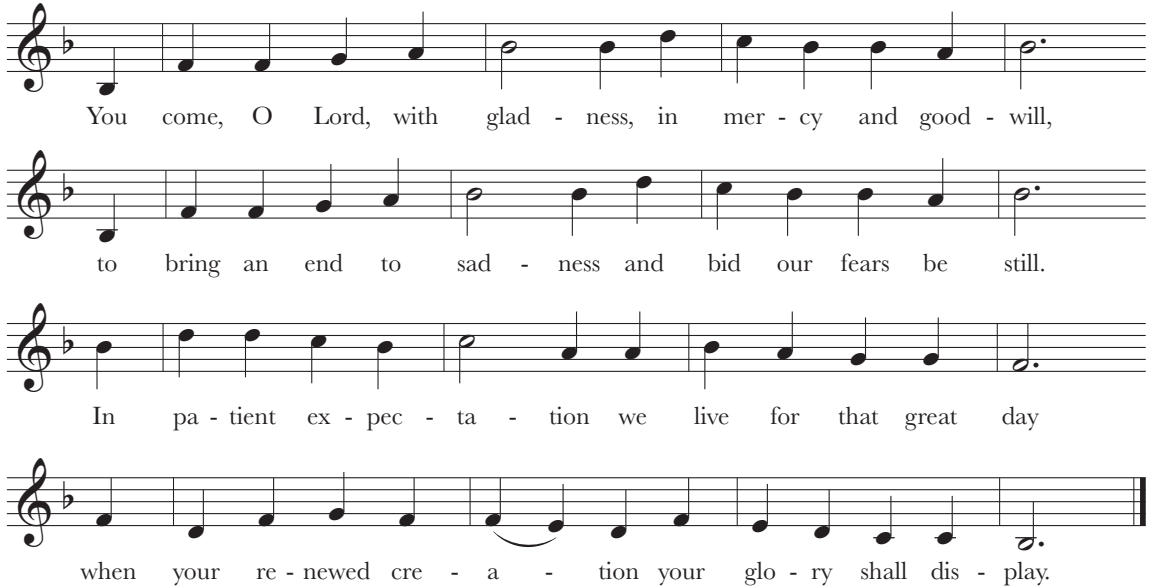
Fill our hearts with courage and hope
and fill our dreams with visions of new life
so that we live according to your word,
and love with the fullness of your grace;
in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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,
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Italian folk melody

The snow lay on the ground; the stars shone bright, when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night. *Venite adoremus Dominum.* 'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong, who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song. She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem; the ass and oxen shared the roof with them. *Venite adoremus Dominum.* Saint Joseph too was by to tend the child, to guard him, and protect his mother mild. The angels hovered round and sang this song: *Venite adoremus Dominum.*
—Anglo-Irish carol; Catholic Hymns, 1860, alt.

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

pew Bible, New Testament page 57/large print, New Testament page 69

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Philippians 2:5-11

Please stand in body or spirit.

**Christ Jesus,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. -Luke 1:46-55

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. -Lesser Doxology

RESPONSE

OLD HUNDERETH

Please stand in body or spirit.



Traditional Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures

Inclusive Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SENDING

HYMN 100

Please stand in body or spirit.

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

Andrew Carter

The congregation is invited to continue worshipping through the postlude, which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.

The cross is dedicated

"In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community."

Our cross-bearer today is Sally Collins.

LEADING THIS MORNING

Hannah Faye Allred, M.Div., *Staff Associate for Mission and Social Justice*

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Amalie Flint and Annabeth Snoddy, *Student Choristers*

Jon Harris, *Family Music Ministry Coordinator*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

As we draw near to Christmas, the Sanctuary fills with beautiful flowers and greens. Your gift, in memory or in thanksgiving of family and/or friends, helps make this possible. Scan the QR code below to donate - select “other” and use the memo field to indicate whom you wish to remember or celebrate. Contributions received by Monday, December 20th will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Printed forms are available in the Narthex and the Lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building

Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to give your tithe or offering.



Join us for Coffee Fellowship on the North Lawn after the Postlude to meet one another, say hello to new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

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