

First Sunday of Advent



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PETALUMA | NOVEMBER 28, 2021

PRELUDE

Bob Heyman

WELCOME

Pastor John

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marcille Roth

In this season of Advent,
we are here to watch and wait
and pray for the coming of light into the world.
We long for the day when the things of darkness –
selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression –
shall be no more.

**Light of the World,
by your presence,
light up the past,
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present,
that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future,
that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray,
may we be always ready to encounter the Lord
who is already and always with us.**

PRAYER AND SILENT LISTENING TO GOD

Holy One, though the earth trembles and the stars shake like leaves, your word will stand forever. Keep us watchful for the day when you will gather the faithful from all the ends of the earth, so that we may greet you in glory. In this time of silence, speak Lord. Your people are listening.

HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light this candle for all God's people,
struggling to be bearers of hope
in a troubled world.

First candle is lit.

Let us pray:

**God, as we wait for your promise,
Give light, give hope. Amen**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Marcille Roth

Let us confess our sins to the One whose mercy endures
from generation to generation.

**God-with-us,
even in Advent,
we confess that you can seem far away.
You are hidden when we need you near.
In our hurt, doubt, and fear,
we do not try to draw closer to you;
instead, we lash out—
against you, our neighbor, even those we love.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us!
Let your face shine until our tears are dried,
our sins are faded, and our hope is restored.
After all, we belong to you,
and in your hands, we can be made new.**

Silence, a time for personal confession.

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

A Call to Service

THE OFFERING

Pastor John

DOXOLOGY

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.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36

Marcille Roth

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud ’with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

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 earth'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.

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Prayers of thanksgiving and petition may be offered, followed by:

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or in your preferred version)*

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.

CHARGE

CLOSING RESPONSE

In our watching and our waiting

Come, Lord Jesus.

In our hopes and in our fears

Come, Lord Jesus.

In our homes and in our world

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Bless us and surprise us.

Amen.

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG *Christ Be Our Light* (chorus)

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.

Worship Leaders: Pastor John Chase, Marcille Roth, Music Director Jane Shelly,
Accompanist Jenny Smith, Bob Heyman, Student and Family Ministries Director Grete
Hansen

Credits

Call to Worship adapted from Josie Smith, in *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*, ed. Ruth Burgess, Wild Goose Publications, 92.

Opening Prayer adapted from PC(USA) Prayers for Advent (<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/prayers-advent/>)

Advent Wreath liturgy Adapted from Jan Berry, in *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*, ed. Ruth Burgess, 93-94.

Confession and Pardon adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Year B, Vol 1*, p. 1-2.

Closing Response Adapted from Ruth Burgess, in *Candles and Conifers: Resources for All Saints' and Advent*, Wild Goose Publications, 111.

Music: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, TEXT: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; as in *The Hymnal 1940*, alt., MUSIC Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011, *Text Alt.* ©1940 Church Pension Fund, *Music Harm.* ©2011 Alfred V. Fedak.

Music: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, TEXT: Latin prose, pre-9th cent.; trans. composite, MUSIC: Plainsong; adapt. Thomas Helmore, 1852; arr. John Weaver, 1988, *Music Arr.*, ©1990 John Weaver.