

First Sunday of Advent



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PETALUMA | NOVEMBER 27, 2022

PRELUDE

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

Ledra Brady

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

Unslumbering God, at an unexpected hour you sent an unlikely liberator to an undeserving world. Keep us faithful in unguarded moments and alert in uncertain times, so that we may seek your unmeasured mercy, serve you with undivided hearts, live together in unbroken community, and greet you with unending praise; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our undying Life, in whom we know your unfailing justice, unfathomable grace, and unlimited love. In this time of silence, prepare our hearts for worship.

***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

Ledra Brady

Every year, we light the Advent candles, praying that our preparation for Christmas may help us to look outward in love, and to look forward in hope.

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives,
shine among us now.**

Let us pray that waiting for Christmas may show us how to be patient when things take time, how to live for Christ day by day, and how to wait for promises not yet fulfilled.

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives,
shine among us now.**

In Isaiah, chapter 2, the prophet declares that in days to come God will judge between the nations, and arbitrate for many peoples.

(Light the first candle.)

We light this candle because we refuse to let go of Isaiah's hope that swords can be beaten into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks, and that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives,
shine among us now.**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Ledra Brady

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

When Will Messiah Come

DISCOVERY TIME

Grete Hansen

THE OFFERING

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.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Ledra Brady

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us

his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTING ON THE WORD

Pastor John

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.

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD

Holy and loving God,
your will is that no-one shall hurt or destroy,
yet your world is filled with violence and strife;
we cry out to you in longing and hope:

That we may pray humbly,
longing to see as you see, and love as you love,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For all who learn war
as they practice the care of weapons
and the application of deadly force,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For all whom we currently name
as defenders, allies, and enemies—
and for all who name us as their enemies,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For children, women, and men
whose bodies become statistics,
or who are regarded as not worth counting,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For all whose lives are torn apart
by death, destruction,
and wounds of body and mind,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For all who are scarred by the trauma of battle,
who carry unbearable knowledge
and memories they cannot share,
God of mercy, God of peace,

hear our prayer.

For all, including ourselves,
who are swayed, excited, or ruled
by the drumbeats of anger,
the thirst for revenge,
and the seductive appeal of force,
God of mercy, God of peace,
hear our prayer.

In the name of Jesus Christ who refused to hurt or destroy,
God of mercy, God of peace,
hear our prayer. Amen.

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, Ledra Brady, Music Director Jane Shelly,
Accompanist Jenny Smith, 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 from PC(USA) Prayers for Advent (<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/prayers-advent/>)

Advent Wreath liturgy adapted from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2008, p. 33-35.

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

Our Prayers to God adapted from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, 2008, p. 37-38.

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.

Music: *Christ Be Our Light (chorus)*, TEXT and MUSIC: Bernadette Farrell, 1993, Text and Music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell (Publishing by OCP).