

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 8TH, 2024 | 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 10:00AM



OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Come, celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ with us! All are invited to sing, pray and participate in liturgy.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE INVITE YOU TO HONOR GOD BY STANDING.

PRELUDE

INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY
Tom Andrew, Piano

POLISH CAROL ARR. JULIE A. LIND

WELCOME AND SHARING

REV. LAUREN PATRUS-BETZEL

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTING: PEACE

BARB & DON GREENLEE

Last week we lit the candle of hope, as a reminder to offer hope to others in any way we can, while always looking forward with hope to the fulfillment of the promises from the days of old.

But we are still waiting on the promises from the days of old. We are waiting for peace.

Peace means nothing to be anxious about and nothing to fight about.

Peace means rest and quiet.

Peace is something we are called to make as followers of Christ.

How do we make peace?

By being like Christ. Christ came to us as a vulnerable baby - babies need everything to be done for them, so that reminds us that the way of Christ, the way of peace, is the way of humility - accepting help and admitting need. Babies can't even feed themselves.

That reminds us that those who need to be fed are like Christ.

Babies need to be held and loved; they giggle when you nuzzle them.

That reminds us that needing love is Christlike, and laughing at every silly little thing is also Christlike.

Babies also cry and get really loud when they're upset.

That reminds us that making peace does not always mean being quiet.

Sometimes, making peace means loudly calling attention to the places where more peace is needed, just like when Christ cried out in the presence of suffering.

This is the candle of peace, a reminder that the way of Christ is the way of peace. Come, let us worship God!

IF HYMN #105

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST
(first and second verses)

FRENCH FOLK MELODY; FARJEON & SHAW, 1928

INVITATION TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, forgive us for being too familiar with the sacred story. May we find a childlike awe in the mystery of your arrival again. May we see the newness you bring to everything, even old traditions. Forgive us for thinking it is the traditions that ground us, when the traditions are simply there to remind us how you broke in to make everything new. Forgive us for not wanting things to be new. Give us the joy of anticipation of all that you are doing in this world, even the ways you might be changing us so that we might better serve you and love others.

A PERIOD OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON - FROM ISAIAH 35

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.

The people of God will return with joy and singing.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

I GLORIA PATRI

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.

I PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the Peace of Christ be with you; **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:1 - 20

PAGES 1590 - 1591

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THERE'S A STAR IN THE EAST

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Sung by the Monroe Family

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

"THIS IS THE STAR"

OUR RESPONSE TO SERVE

I HYMN #114

AWAY IN A MANGER

GABRIEL, 1892 & KIRKPATRICK, 1895

During this hymn, the cast of the pageant will head downstairs.

After worship, families can collect their kids from the Nursery and bring them to the Fellowship Hall.

I LITANY: O ANTIPHONS

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, **you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.**

O Adonai, Ruler of the House of Israel, **you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.**

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all the peoples; **before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.**

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel; you open and no one can close; **you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.**

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
Sun of justice: Come, shine those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.
O Ruler of the nations, Monarch for whom the people long,
you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.
O Emmanuel, our Sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations Savior of all:
Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

MARK LOWRY & BUDDY GREENE

I DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise God all creatures here Below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

I PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and glory forever. Amen.

I HYMN #83

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

WESLEY, 1744 & WITT, 1715

I CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION

FRANZEN

Tom Andrew, Organ

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THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

ARGYLE, BENJAMIN, BLAINE, BRANDON, CHARLIE, COEN, CONNOR, CREW, ELLIE, EMILY, EMMA,
EMMANUEL, EMMETT, FINLEY, JOEL, KASE, KOLBY, MATTHEW, MOLLY, OLIVIA, WILL
AND ANY OTHER WONDERFUL ADDITIONS!

DIRECTORS (AKA CHILDREN WRANGLERS): APRIL, BETH, KARLI, MAREN AND REBEKAH

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED TODAY!

USHERS: BRENDA BENNING, RON MUZZARELLI, STEVE PICKEN AND ED ROTTMAN

This year's pageant is based on the book "This Is the Star" by Joyce Dunbar.

Throughout Advent, we light the candles on the Advent wreath, symbolizing light growing in the darkness, leading up to the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

Remember the **special Christmas trees** that help us celebrate and give:

The *small tree on the landing* is for your Christmas cards for your church family, and you can put any money you may have used on postage in the can to benefit Kemmerer Village.

The *tree in the Education Wing* is for hats and mittens to warm those in need.

The *tree by the Mission Drive Closet* is for Tessa's family's Christmas.

Thank you for the many ways you share and give throughout this season!

O Antiphons: The name comes from the Greek word antiphon (ἀντίφωνον, ἀντί "opposite" and φωνή "voice"), which is a short chant sung as a refrain. The antiphons were designed to concentrate the mind on Advent with a complex series of references from the Old and New Testaments. In Latin, the first letters of these seven images of Christ - *Sapientia* (wisdom), *Adonia* (Lord), *Radix Jesse* (root of Jesse), *Clavis David* (Key of David), *Oriens* (Radiant Dawn), *Rex Gentium* (Ruler of the nations), *Emmanuel* (God with us) - make up a backward acrostic, spelling *ero cras*: "tomorrow I will [come]." We are most familiar with these seven images from the hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. By reciting them, we are lifting our hearts and voices in an Advent tradition that dates back to the 8th century. With the prayerful refrain "Come..." we confess our belief that Christ has come and Christ will come again, and we describe the One whose return we anticipate.

Join us on **Second Wednesdays** at **1pm** for our **Living with Grief** Group. No matter how long you've been grieving, or who or what you carry grief for, you are welcome. All are welcome - please consider inviting those who are grieving who are not yet connected to our church. **This Wednesday, December 11th, Pastor Tanya will lead our group through a "Blue Christmas" liturgy as we prepare our hearts for a holiday season while missing our loved ones.**

We hope you can bake (and buy!) cookies on *Sunday, December 15th* for our **Cookie Walk!** All proceeds benefit the very important **Family in Need Fund**. You can **drop cookies off** on *Friday, December 13th* between 8:30am and 3:30pm or bring them with you to church on Sunday.

Make a Local Family's Christmas Merry & Bright! Visit the tree by the Mission Closet door and choose an item or two to purchase and gift wrap and return to church by **Friday, December 20th**. If you would prefer to give money to this cause, you can put it in the offering plate (please mark on the memo line of the check or an envelope: "Tessa's Family"). Let Shannon if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to spread the joy of the season!

GRATITUDE BAGS

Please write a note of thanks for each staff member and place it in their Gratitude Bag in the Fellowship Hall. *The bags will be given to the staff after December 29th, 2024.* There are many folks in our church who are not on staff who give lots of time and energy to our congregation. Individual notes of thanks are always appreciated. Let the Church Office know if you need anyone's contact information.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday 8th	10a	Worship - Children's Christmas Pageant, 11a Fellowship
Tuesday 10th	6p	Pipe Band & Drums: Lessons & Rehearsals
Wednesday 11th	1p	Living with Grief Group
Thursday 12th	6p	Bell Rehearsal
Friday 13th		Cookie Drop Off for Cookie Walk
Sunday 15th	10a	Worship, 11a Cookie Walk

"A Faith Community, Growing Together, Sharing the love of Christ"

MINISTERS: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

For more information about our staff and volunteers, visit our website. The Church Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30am - 3pm. If you'd like to set up a time to visit Pastor Lauren or Pastor Tanya, please reach out to the Church Office.

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