

Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for Our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Old Hundredth*  
**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.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
Let us affirm our hope in Christ, who came, who comes, and who is to come:

**When violence reigns, and war seems never-ending,  
Christ is our hope, born among us, crucified  
and risen.**

**When despair lies in wait and life loses meaning,  
Christ is our hope, born among us, crucified  
and risen.**

**When people claim to know what God alone knows,  
and say the end is near,  
Christ is our hope, born among us, crucified  
and risen.**

**When life on earth is extinguished this year, next year,  
or in a hundred million years,  
Christ is our hope, born among us, crucified  
and risen.**

**In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow, in life  
and in death,  
Christ is our hope, born among us, crucified  
and risen.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* 100  
One License #00762

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending* Kenneth T. Kosche  
One License #10-020-2

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN....

Tickets for **"Behold the Lamb of God"** will be placed on the table inside the office door and may be picked up after the morning service or between 9 am and 2 pm Monday through Thursday.

#### WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at [fpcknox.org](http://fpcknox.org), via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

#### OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited give securely online at [www.fpcknox.org/donate](http://www.fpcknox.org/donate) or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



#### STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Mark R. Curtis  
*Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Meredith Loftis  
*Associate Pastor*

Mark Pace  
*Organist/Choirmaster*

Mary Wilson  
*Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Katie Norrell  
*Director of Communications*

Jane Holland  
*Director of Finance/Facilities*

Laura Harmon  
*Church Administrator*

Lauren Nunn  
*Director of Parent's Day Out /  
Childcare Coordinator*

Sandra Robinson  
*Administrative Assistant*

Victor Lenoir  
*Custodian*

Paul Seguna  
*Sound Engineer*

Jack Bryan  
*Crucifer*

Campbell Long  
*Bible Bearer*

#### FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



*First Presbyterian Church*  
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE 

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 4, 2022**

**11 A.M. SERVICE**

Connect With Us



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

620 State Street  
Knoxville, TN 37902

## THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**PRELUDE**      *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*      McDonald-Wood  
Mark Pace, harp

### WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**      Ukirk      Abby Bible  
UKirk (meaning "University Church") at the University of TN, is a mission of the Presbytery of East Tennessee, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Located right on campus in a beautiful brick house, UKirk provides a "home away from home" for students. It is a space to study, fellowship, serve, explore their faith, and just be. At UKirk UTK, we believe that every person, without qualification, should have the opportunity for God's amazing love to be made known to them. We believe all people are invited to Christ's table, not to fit in, but rather to bring their honest, authentic, and, at times, broken selves to experience the grace of God. UKirk UTK is a place where everyone belongs and students know they are loved by God and others.

**LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**      *from Isaiah 11*  
Lanny, Ann, Charles & Melanie Payne

The prophet Isaiah declares,  
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God,  
as the waters cover the sea.

We light this candle as a sign of hope  
that truth will prevail, and justice be done,  
for all people.

As we pray and work  
for truth, compassion, and justice, near and far –  
**Risen Christ, Light of the world,  
shine in our lives  
and shine among us now.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 1, 2, & 6)*      88

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, with unhurried gentleness you draw near to us, bidding us lift our eyes to the infinite stars and to the ordinary wonders of each new day. Yet we see the waning sun, the harried looks, and indeed, the weariness in the faces of others and on our own. We cannot claim a breathless anticipation of your love in our lives. Instead, we live with a dread, a worry, a skepticism...a fatigue. God, your way is ancient, familiar, but ever-new. Help us to see afresh the love that is reborn in the world in each moment. Like the desert**

**that blooms and rejoices, so may what is dry and lifeless in us be restored. Like the healing that comes to those who are blind and lame, may we see and dance as your faithful children. Like our Lord Jesus, may we seek your kingdom to be first in our lives.**

*(a moment for silent confession)*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE**      *Wait for the Lord*      90  
**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.**      One License #00172  
**Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart! (3x)**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**\*MUSICAL RESPONSE**      *While We Are Waiting Come*      92  
**While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.**  
**Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Isaiah 11:1-10      Bill Butler

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**ANTHEM**      *Every Valley*      John Ness Beck  
One License #45011

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry mountain made low and the crooked made straight and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain made low, and the crooked straight, and the rough places plain, and all flesh shall*

*see it together. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.*

### SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

#### SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

### SERMON

Rev. Meredith Loftis

## THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE**      *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*      96

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER**      Rev. Mark R. Curtis

**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.**

### RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

**OFFERTORY**      *Comfort Ye and Every Valley*      George F. Handel  
Eric White, Tenor