

United Presbyterian Church
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December 7, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Bell Choir

Lighting the Advent Candle

Gilbert and Anita Smith

Children of God, what are we waiting for?

We wait for peace where conflict rages, for gentleness where harshness prevails.

We wait for swords to be reshaped into plows, for walls to crumble and bridges to rise.

We wait, longing for the Prince of Peace, who stills our storms and guides our feet.

Today we light two candles...

**Gathering Song O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v.1,3,4) 88*

*O come, O come Emanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice ! Rejoice ! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

(Refrain:)

*O come, thou root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave.*

(Refrain:)

*Call to Confession

Gail Long, Lay Reader

*Prayer of Confession

O God of still waters and quiet strength, we confess how often our lives are restless. Our hearts race, our hands grasp, our voices quicken with fear. Yet you breathe calm into chaos; you steady our steps on uneven ground. Grant us your peace, O Christ, not as the world gives, but as you alone provide. Amen.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*Prepare the way O Zion, your Christ is drawing near !
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Scripture. Isaiah 11:1-10 Pew Bible, Page 491

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12 Pew Bible, Page 682

Message A sign to all people Rev. Edward Dunn

Responding Song: My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (v.2) 100

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy shall last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

*Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.*

Receiving our Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in
the highest.

...Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again

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,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer

Sending Song While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.*

*Fear not, said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and human kind, to you and human kind.*

*To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:*

*The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.*

*Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song.*

*All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease, begin and never cease.*

*Blessing

Postlude O Little Town of Bethlehem

The Peace of Wild Things

Wendell Berry

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great blue heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*