

December 3, 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Passacaglia" Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Susan Chien and Brandon Leffew
... Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.** Isa. 2:4

INTROIT BREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus says: I am coming soon. Rev. 22:20
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
The day of the Lord is surely coming; Jer. 33:14
the promise of God will be fulfilled.
Heaven and earth will pass away, Mark 13:31
but the word of God endures forever.
Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

+**HYMN: GTG #88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION Isa. 64:6-9

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: GTG #105 "People, Look East" BESANÇON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

Young children are dismissed to Sunday School

+ Those who are able may stand. 1

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. 19:6-7, 9; Luke 13:29; 24:30-31

GREAT 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. ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION 1 Cor. 11:23-26

COMMUNION "Come, Share the Lord" DIVERNON
*All are welcome at the table of the Lord.
A gluten-free option is available
on the table at the rear of the sanctuary.
Partake of the bread when it comes to you,
mindful of your communion with Christ.
Hold the cup and we will all drink together,
mindful of our communion with one another.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks
that you have given us this foretaste
of the justice, righteousness, and peace
of your promised new creation.
Strengthen us with this heavenly food
as we seek to serve your holy realm.
Lead us to live in joyful expectation
of the coming again in glory
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Older children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School

INVITATION TO OFFERING 2 Pet. 3:8-15

OFFERTORY "Valse no. 3" Schubert

+**RESPONSE: GTG #88** VENI EMMANUEL
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (refrain)

+ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Second Helvetic Confession*
(Switzerland, 1561)

We believe and teach that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ,
was predestined or foreordained from eternity by the Father to be
the Savior of the world. And we believe that he was born, not only
when he assumed flesh of the Virgin Mary, and not only before the
foundation of the world was laid, but by the Father before all
eternity in an inexpressible manner. For Isaiah said: "Who can tell
his generation?" And Micah says: "His origin is from of old, from
ancient days." And John said in the Gospel: "In the beginning was
the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

GTG = *Glory to God* (purple) 2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 O.T. page 528

PSALM Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 O.T. page 416

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 N.T. page 127

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 13:24-37 N.T. page 39

RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE Isa. 40:8; Mark 13:31

Heaven and earth will pass away
but the word of the Lord stands forever.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON Rev. Bill Pinches

+**HYMN: GTG #354** "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" BATTLE HYMN

+**BLESSING** 1 Thess. 5:16-24
... until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

+**CHARGE** Isa. 40:3; Mark 1:3
Prepare the way of the Lord!
Amen!

+**CHORAL BENEDICTION** "Creation Will Be at Peace" Williams / Page

POSTLUDE "Op. 15-1" Schmann

*You are invited to join us
for fellowship and refreshments
after worship in the Memorial Room.
It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.*

SERVING US TODAY

Liturgist: Lucinda Davenport

Greeters: Debbie Markiewicz and Darlene Martin

Communion Servers: Lucinda Davenport, Ron Dlouhy, Vicki Drown,
Jane Hamelink

Sound: Marty Subject

Livestream: Tami Chapman

Security: Will Ozee

Today's flowers are given by

Sally and John Hughes

in memory of

their parents

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CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#62. *Malta*:

Paul and his shipwrecked companions safely make it to Malta. They spend the winter on the island, where Paul heals many who are sick. (*Acts 27:27—28:10*) (AD 59-60)

THE STUDY CATECHISM

Question 116. What is the tenth commandment?

“You shall not covet what is your neighbor’s” (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21).

Question 117. What do you learn from this commandment?

My whole heart should belong to God alone, not to money or the things of this world. “Coveting” means desiring something wrongfully. I should not resent the good fortune or success of my neighbor or allow envy to corrupt my heart.

CREDITS

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The Study Catechism (Full Version): Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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Mason First Presbyterian Church

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MINISTERS

All Members

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Bill Pinches
Parish Associate: Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Charlie Herrick
Spiritual Growth Director: Lori Filka
Office Manager: Sheren Wright
Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director: Deb Melse
Choral Music Accompanist / Organist: Feng Kang
Office Assistant: Nancy Sue MacDonald
Sexton: Eric VanDyke
Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Michelle Mackey
Child Care: Jill Castle, Aimee Cruickshank, Isaiah Hawkins, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons

ELDERS

Class of 2023: Bruce Archer (clerk), Tim Hammond, Mary Ozee, Steve Sowles.
Class of 2024: Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.
Class of 2025: Doreen Chapman, Anita Cote, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

DEACONS

Class of 2023: Lisa Castle, Jay Harkness, Vern Schrock.
Class of 2024: Donna Hujsak, Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.
Class of 2025: Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches, Tom Seely.

DAILY PRAYER

Book of Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2018)

EVENTS THIS WEEK

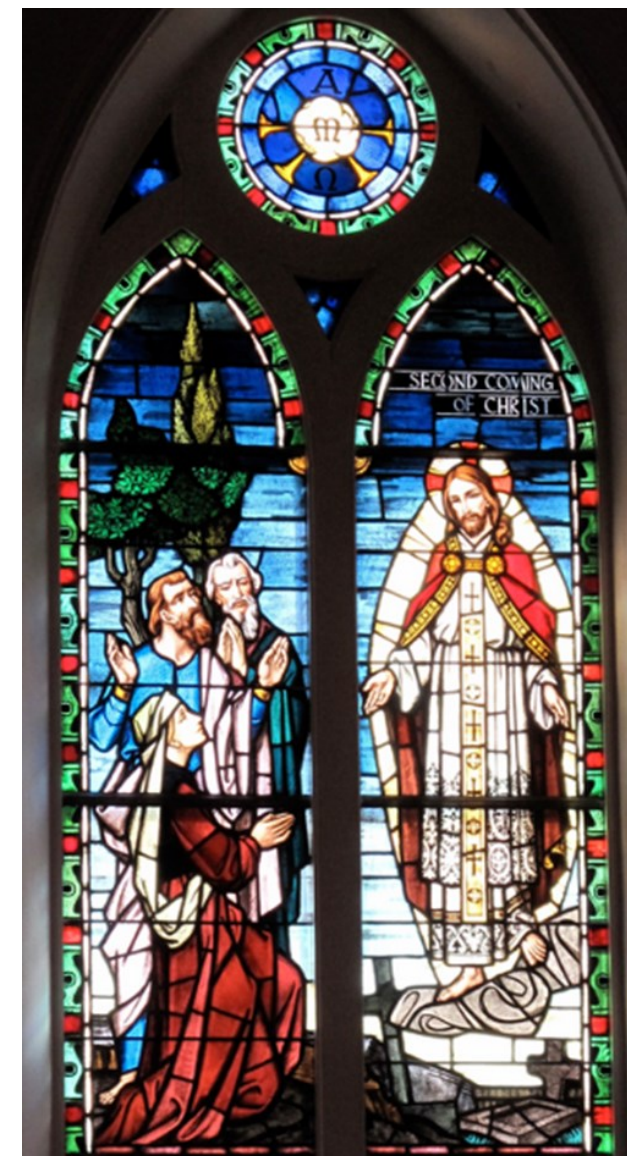
Today	Pine Ridge Mission Trip Dinner	11:30 am
Monday	Mission Committee	4:00 pm
Wednesday	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (children/youth)	4:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir rehearsal	7:10 pm
Thursday	Administration Committee	7:00 pm
Friday	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	

BIRTHDAYS

Peggy Stolz	Dec. 5
Gerald Woolston	Dec. 5
Melissa Baker	Dec. 8
Zoë Caltrider	Dec. 8

Mason First Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent



The Second Coming of Christ
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church,
Charleston, South Carolina

*The fruit of the Spirit
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)*