

**December 10, 2023**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE** "Nocturne in g" Chopin

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES** Patty Yanz and Torrie Yanz  
... Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

**CHORAL INTROIT** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" ABERYSTWYTH

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Jesus says: I am coming soon. Rev. 22:20  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**  
A voice cries out in the wilderness: Matt. 3:3  
**Prepare the way of the Lord!**  
Blessed is the Holy One our God, Luke 1:1-68-69  
**who has sent a mighty Savior to redeem us.**  
Let us worship God!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**+HYMN: GTG #93** "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TRURO

**CALL TO CONFESSION** Isa. 12:2

**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** Isa. 12:3-4  
... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**HYMN: GTG #129** "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN' ROS'

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN** Lisa Castle

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING** Heb. 10:10

**OFFERTORY** "Waltz No. 1" Schubert

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

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Heidelberg Catechism*  
(Germany, 1563)

Q. What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

**A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 40:1-11 O.T. page 508

**PSALM** Psalm 85:8-13  
You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to you.  
**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land.**  
Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
**Righteousness shall go before the LORD  
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** 2 Peter 3:8-15a N.T. page 187

**GOSPEL LESSON** Mark 1:1-8 N.T. page 27

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE** Luke 1:72

This is the promise of God  
to our ancestors and to us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** "The Coming of the Lord" Chopin

**SERMON** "Lessons in the Wilderness" Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**+HYMN: GTG #96** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" WINCHESTER NEW

**+BLESSING** Phil. 4:7

May the peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
guard your hearts and minds  
in Christ Jesus.  
**Alleluia!**

**+CHARGE** Phil. 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always.  
Again I say, Rejoice!  
The Lord is near.  
**Amen!**

**+CHORAL BENEDICTION** "A Classic Advent Flourish" arr. Paige

**POSTLUDE** "Op. 15-7" Schumann

*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:** Rev. Bill Pinches  
**Greeters:** Jay and Loren Harkness  
**Sound:** Marty Subject  
**Livestream:** Tami Chapman  
**Security:** Eva Schlenner

## CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

### **#63. Italy:**

Paul and his companions set sail from Malta and arrive in Italy, where Christians warmly welcome them.

Paul finally reaches the great city of Rome. (*Acts 28:11-16*) (AD 60)

## THE STUDY CATECHISM

### **Question 118. What is the best summary of the last six commandments?**

These teach me how to live rightly with my neighbor. Jesus summed them up with the commandment which is like the greatest one about loving God: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:39; Lev. 19:18).

## CREDITS

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## Mason First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00-11:30am

### 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

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School	11:15 am
<b>Tuesday</b>	Friends!	3:30 pm
	Worship and Music Committee	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:30 am
	Parish Life Committee	12:00 pm
	Prayer Fellowship	12:00 pm
	Wonderful Wednesday (children/youth)	4:00 pm
	NO Wednesday Night Dinner this week	
	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Choir rehearsal	7:10 pm
	Spiritual Growth Committee	6:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
<b>Saturday</b>	Yarners	10:00 am

### BIRTHDAYS

Rick Cote	Dec. 10	Andrew Mackey	Dec. 11
Tim Hammond	Dec. 13	Eric Foster	Dec. 14
Jane Somerville	Dec. 14		

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

## December 10, 2023 Second 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)*