

# December 1, 2024

## First Sunday of Advent

**PRELUDE** "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea" Hisaishi

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIGHTING OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ADVENT CANDLE** Barbara Georgescu

"Advent's Holy Light" Raney

You are invited to join in singing (the music is on an insert):

**Lord, we are waiting for peace to reign.**

**Lord, we are listening for love's refrain.**

**For hope, peace, and joy and love to unite**

**in the beauty and wonder of Advent's holy light.**

Then, join in this litany:

For those of us facing difficult challenges

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts

**Ignite our hearts with hope.**

Then we will repeat the refrain.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us.

We are not ready for your coming.

We live in sin,

as though there were no justice.

We live in fear,

as though there were no grace.

Forgive us, Lord.

Ps. 25:4-6

Show us your mercy and steadfast love.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths,

for you are the God of our salvation. Amen.

### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

... In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

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

+ Those who are able may stand. 1 GTG = Glory to God (purple hymnal)

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... In your mercy, Lord, save us.

*Younger children are dismissed to Sunday School*

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### 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

*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

Mighty God, holy is your name.

We thank you for gathering us at your table

and feeding us with the bread of life.

As we leave this table

to go to the many places where you call us,

send your Spirit to accompany us,

so that we may share in your magnificent work:

lifting up those who are laid low,

showing mercy to all in need of human kindness,

and feeding the bodies and hearts

of all those who are hungry. Amen.

*Older children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

"Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior" ADORO TE DEVOTE

#### **+RESPONSE: GTG #113**

GLORIA

"Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

#### **+PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

#### **+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."

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 33:14-16

O.T. page 563

*A righteous branch springs from David*

#### PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

O.T. page 388

*Your paths are love and faithfulness*

#### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

N.T. page 159

*Strengthen hearts of holiness*

#### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 21:25-36

N.T. page 65

*Watch for the coming of the Son of Man*

#### RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:72

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

**Thanks be to God.**

#### ANTHEM

"Soon and Very Soon"

Crouch / arr. Schrader

#### SERMON

"Fig Tree Faith"

Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

#### **+HYMN: GTG #354**

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

BATTLE HYMN

#### +CHARGE

Go in peace, live in love, and seek to be holy in all that you do.

**Amen.**

#### +BLESSING

May the God of mercy keep you, the Holy Spirit cheer you,

and Christ in glory greet you, now and at the day of his coming.

**Alleluia!**

#### **+CHORAL BENEDICTION**

"Soon and Very Soon"

Crouch / arr. Schrader

#### POSTLUDE

"Lullaby of Birdland"

Shearing

**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:** Jane Hamelink

**Communion Servers:** Jill Castle, Lisa Castle,  
Ron Dlouhy, Jane Hamelink, Laurie McGonigal

**Greeters:** Lisa and Jill Castle; Laurie and Erin McGonigal

**Next Week's Greeters:** Vicki Drown and Sally Hughes

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Livestream:** Tami Chapman

**Security:** Dan Baker

Today's flowers are given by Sally and John Hughes  
in memory of their parents

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Le Ji	Dec. 1
Peggy Stolz	Dec. 5
Gerald Woolston	Dec. 5

## CREDITS

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**Affirmation of Faith:** From *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part I: Book of Confessions*, published by the Office of the General Assembly, © 2016.

**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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Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew,  
Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

### ELDERS

**Class of 2024:** Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson,  
Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Elders-Elect:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles  
(three-year terms); Greg Lang (one-year term)

### DEACONS

**Class of 2024:** Donna Hujsak (*Secretary*), Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches,  
Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher,  
Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal

**Deacons-Elect:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School ( <i>Calling All Angels</i> )	11:30 am
<b>Monday</b>	Mission Committee	4:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Parish Life Committee	12:00 pm
	Prayer Fellowship ( <i>in the Chapel</i> )	12:00pm
	Wonderful Wednesday	4:00—6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Women's Association Craft and Lunch	10:30 am
	Administration Committee	7:00 pm
	Board of Deacons	7:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor's Sabbath	
<b>Saturday</b>	Hanging of the Greens	10:00 am
	Yarners	10:00 am

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

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*The Starry Night*  
by Vincent van Gogh, 1889

A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,  
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,  
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth