

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

ASSEMBLE IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude – *Sleepers, Awake* Johann Sebastian Bach

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

God of justice, God of peace, even now you are breaking into our weary world. Make your presence known to those who wait and watch for you. Send your Spirit of justice rolling over the earth; sweep away all war and suffering so that all of your creation can glorify you in peace. May the realm that Jesus promised us come down to earth at last. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Alicia Westbrook

Call to Worship – Lighting of Advent Candles (responsive) Matthew and Taylor Boucher
We believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ, God overcame darkness and made us all children of light.

We place our hope in Christ’s reign.

Six hundred years before Jesus, Isaiah foretold this hope.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of darkness, on them a light has shined.

For to us a child is born. To us a son is given.

The government shall be upon his shoulder.

His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of his peace there will be no end.

This the truth.

This is our HOPE forever!

Let us worship God!

* Hymn of Praise 88 – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (vs. 1, 2, 6 & 7)

* Call to Confession

This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us then lay aside the tatters of sin, and put on the armor of righteousness, asking our Savior for forgiveness.

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like

impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace.

(time for silent confession)

* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Beloved, know this: the God of Presence, the God of Transformation, the God of Peace, hears our prayers and gives us power to love.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

* The Congregation’s Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, amen.

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Time with Children Alicia Westbrook

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 2:1-5 Pew Bible pg. 550

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *There Shall a Star from Jacob* from *Christus* music by F. Mendelssohn

(Words are in the announcements)

Second Reading – Matthew 24:36-44 Pew Bible pg. 806

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *I Don’t Know* Tommy Suttle, Director of Discipleship

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

* Hymn of Thanksgiving 94 – *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

* Affirmation of Faith: Adapted from The Confession of 1967, 9.19

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ’s realm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of the church . . . Bring peace, O God, to all believers; show us how to honor and serve you as members of Christ’s body. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of the earth . . . Bring peace, O God, to all the world; bind us more firmly together in the pursuit of the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of all nations . . . Bring peace, O God, to every land; teach us to trade our swords for plowshares and spears for pruning hooks. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of this community . . . Bring peace, O God, to our city; make us attentive to the needs of our neighbors and protect all who are in danger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of loved ones . . . Bring peace, O God, to family and friends; heal those who are sick, help those who suffer, and give hope to those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem . . . Bring peace, O God, to the world you have made: the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming in glory to reign. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Invitation to Offering

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory – *Gabriel's Message*

Paul Manz

* The Doxology – Hymn 606

* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn of Consecration 97 – *Watchman Tell Us of the Night*

* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the God of peace make you holy and the power of the Spirit sustain you until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!** Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

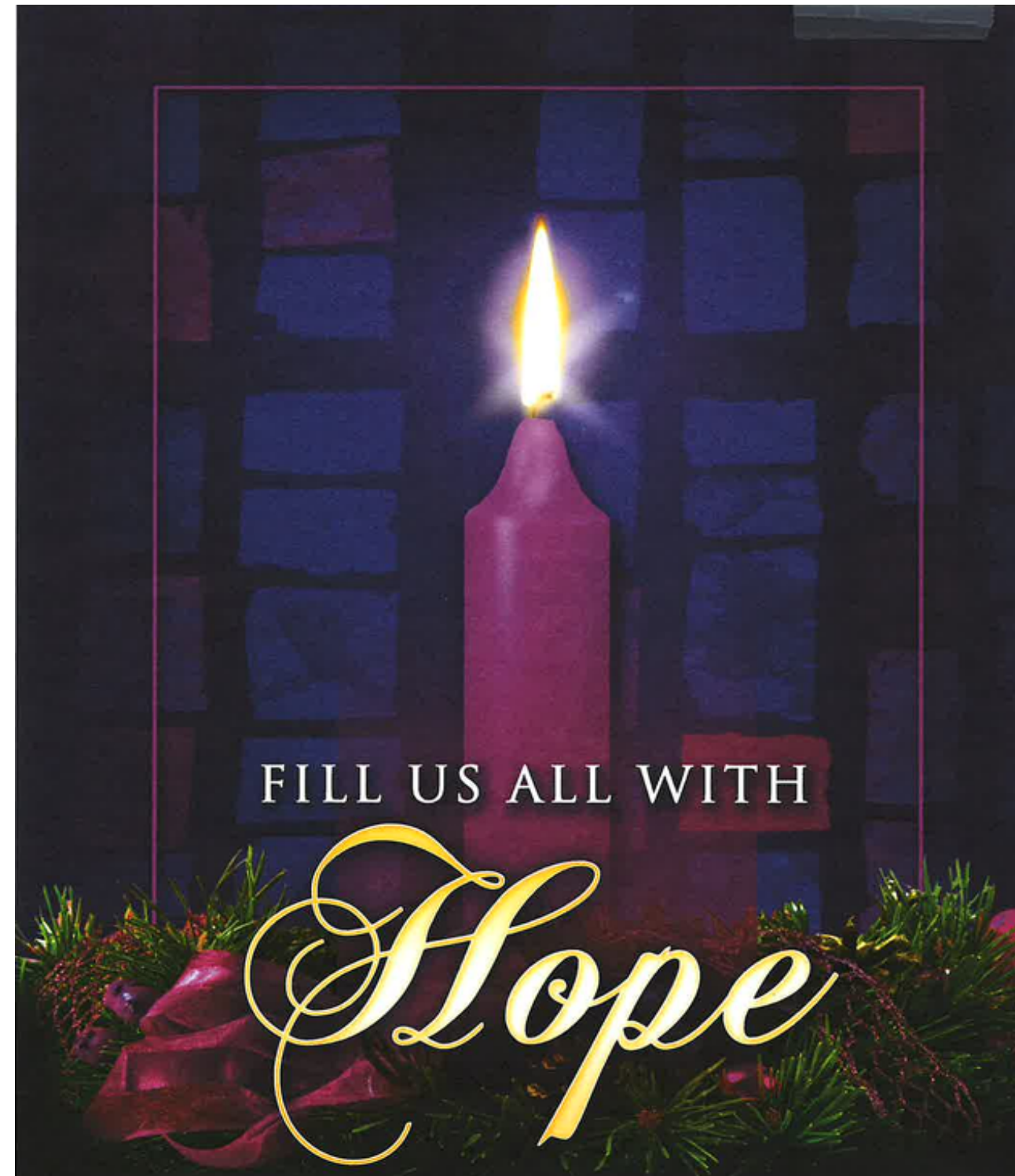
* Postlude – *Come Now, Savior of the Nations*

Johann Sebastian Bach



* Please stand at the * as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**

Today's liturgy is in part adapted from the Call to Worship website, a resource created the PCUSA's Office of Theology and Worship and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians.



PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(* new added prayers)

Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – health issues

**Janet Baldwin, Oseola director – nerve issues with back and foot*

Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's

Jan Bozeman – constant pain

Franklin Bryant – recovering from broken pelvis at home

Larry & Margaret Burge of Poplarville, friend of Michael Yore – Larry has cancer

**Miriam Crotwell – recovery from a fall*

Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues

Deidra Dickenson, Kathy Cain's sister – onset dementia

Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance

Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia

Lee Graham, Pam Love's son-in-law – health issues

**Jim Harris, Dixie Coat's brother-in-law's father – in hospital with serious health issues*

Mary Gunn – continued positive medical reports

Charles "Rocky" Hartfield, friend of Pam Love – health issues

Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister – continued strength through addiction recovery

Charlotte Hill

Ann Johnson

Geraldine Jones

Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's

B.J. Lambert

Vivian Lochhead, daughter of Bob and Margaret Lochhead – eye issues

Peggy McCarthy, friend of Iris Easterling – facing serious health issues

**Lender McKinzie, sister of Janet Baldwin – upcoming hip replacement*

Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles' first cousin – dementia

Anita Murphy, friend of Mary Cromartie – lung cancer

Butch Nobles' mother – recovering from broken hip

Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength

Renee Parker, friend of Ruthie Davis – macular degeneration

Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues

Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – broken shoulder

Michael Raggio – prayers for recovery

Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues

Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)

Korie Turner, friend of Ruthie Davis – prayers for courage

Rose Marie Yore – recovering from spinal fusion surgery

**Ella Young, sister of Janet Baldwin – struggling with dementia*



Greeting and Announcements

Welcome to Westminster! We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

The Youth and Children's Meeting will not take place today.

The PW Coordinating Team meeting will be on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Brown Bag Bible Study will meet on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.

Choir will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men of Church will meet Thursday at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery

BOSWELL GIFT TIME

A long tradition for WPC has been to provide Christmas gifts for the clients at Boswell Regional Center. This year we need to provide gifts for 58 males and 33 females. **A list of acceptable and needed items is on the narthex cabinet.** Please provide only new items, do not wrap the gifts but provide a gift bag. If you would prefer to donate money rather than furnish a gift, someone else will shop for you. Make checks out to Westminster and put Boswell on the memo line or put cash in the pew brown envelopes and mark Boswell. **Deadline to bring gifts or give money is Dec. 7.**

Advent Workshop is Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 5:30 p.m. Supper will be provided.

Children and Youth Christmas program will be on Sunday, Dec. 7. Come at 5:30 for a meal and at 6 p.m. for the program.

Caroling will be Sunday, Dec. 21, starting at 5:00 p.m. with supper provided afterwards.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding to Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall in Jamaica. PDA is supporting long-term recovery, resilience for leaders, and addressing unmet needs. If you would like to donate, please make checks out to Westminster with 'Melissa's Assistance' on the memo line, and we will ensure it is directed to the correct place.

Anthem:

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up, (repeat)

And dash in pieces princes and nations (repeat)

As bright the star of morning gleams, Jesus shedeth glorious beams of light

and consolation! Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;

Thine be praise and adoration!

Then Pilate said to the priest, the elders, and the people:

In him I find no evil; the man is faultless. Then cried the people: