



Second Sunday of Advent

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 7, 2025

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Matthew 3:3 & Psalm 118:24*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

ALL: *Prepare the way of the Lord!*

One: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Stan Brunner

Paul Karvonen

CHORAL INTROIT

Hear the Bells
FPC Children's Choir

Michael Bedford

CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Nicholas, Kelly, Alexander and Callum Greene*

One: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

One: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

ALL: *The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.*

One: Let us pray. Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.

ALL: *Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

One: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ALL: *Come, Lord Jesus.*

RESPONSE (*all singing, refrain only Hymn: 88*)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Based on Matthew 3:3)*

Rev. John White

We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord and make God's paths straight." Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into to bold new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. John White

One: Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as God's own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel:

ALL: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 581** *Glory Be to the Father*

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. John White

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ANTHEM

An Advent Acclamation

arr. Nordmeyer

FPC Chancel Choir | Director, Helen Redding

**NEW MEMBERS
RECEPTION**

Noah and Macey Berry (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Anna Poole

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 3:1-12 (page 2-3)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Kingdom of Heaven has Come Near

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION of FAITH** from *The Confession of 1967*

Rev. John White

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. John White

OFFERTORY

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

Stan Brunner

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White

SENDING

***HYMN: 100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

***CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Come, Lord Jesus

Page

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

arr. Paul Manz

Stan Brunner