



WORSHIP SERVICE

December 4, 2019

6:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church

1573 N. Highland Ave.

Jackson, TN 38301

731-422-1591

www.fpcjacksontn.org

ADVENT SERVICE OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

ORGAN PRELUDE

Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Held

OPENING WORDS

Scripture: John 1:1-14

Elder Barbara Fowler

##HYMN: 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Lift our eyes from earth to see the wonders of the heavens.*

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Fill each heart with carols of joy, songs of gladness.*

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Bring peace to the earth, shelter to the homeless, and food to the hungry.*

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Bring healing to the sick, the abused and the hurting.*

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Show us with forgiveness and blessing, hope and laughter.*

Let your love clothe us as dew on the morning grass.

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

ALL: *Give us hope that we might sing in the midst of sorrow, believe in the midst of doubt, and light candles in the midst of darkness.*

##HYMN: 88 (Sing stanzas 1,5,6 & 7)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

FIRST READING

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5

Elder Bill Kipp

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

##HYMN: 95

Prepare the Way of the Lord (sing 3 times)

PREPARE THE WAY

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. John White

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND CONFESSION

O Lord, we long for your coming into the world....

Creator, Redeemer, your people turn to you, for you alone have the power to heal. Mend the torn fabric of your church.....(*lift up prayers for the church, aloud or in silence*)

Peacemaker, Painbearer, restore the shalom of the earth burdened by the darkness of our sin, and guide all nations in the way of your wholeness...(*pray for specific requests for creation's healing and petitions for places of oppression and unrest around the world, aloud or in silence*)

Weaver of Compassion, restore those whose bodies, spirits, minds, and lives are burdened by sickness, circumstances, or grief...(*lift up those who are on our hearts and those who have requested our prayers on the church prayer list*)

#*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Psalm 139:11-12, Isaiah 60:1

Rev. John White

One: Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation:

ALL: *If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,"*

One: even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day.

ALL: *The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ*

One: who binds up the brokenhearted,

ALL: *heals all our infirmities,*

One: and relieves our burden of sin.

ALL: *So arise, shine; for your light has come,*

One: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

ALL: *Thanks be to God!*

SECOND READING

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Elder Jody Pickens

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

ORGAN

Meditation on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Uehlein

Dr. Terry McRoberts, organ

THIRD READING

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Elder Julia Kipp

MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

****HYMN: 347** (*verses 1 & 2*)
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. John White

****HYMN: 91** (*sing 2 times*)
Come, Come Emmanuel

COME, COME EMMANUEL

ADVENT REFLECTION

Rev. John White

WORDS OF FAITH

One: During this Advent Season, we give thanks to God for the most precious gift of Jesus Christ.

ALL: *Christ is our peace, our light, and our never-ending source of wisdom and love.*

One: With joy, we look forward to the birth of the Christ Child in Bethlehem!

ALL: *With hope, we anticipate the second coming of the Messiah, whose reign will be forever and ever!*

One: With love, we seek to build up the body of Christ, caring for our neighbors and the needy.

ALL: *With thanksgiving, we celebrate the life-giving presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives each day. The Christ Child has come to us and is coming again soon. Come, Lord Jesus!*

*CLOSING HYMN: 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*PARTING WORDS

Rev. John White

One: We always live in Advent. We are always waiting for the Messiah to come. The Messiah has come but is not yet fully manifest. The Messiah is not fully manifest in each of our lives, not fully manifest in humankind as a whole. Just as Christ was born according to the flesh in Bethlehem of Judah, so must he be born according to the Spirit in each of our souls.

*BENEDICTION

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

Berceuse on Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Fedak