

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 3, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 83 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (vrs.1&3) STUTTGART

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *The Jones Family*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the beginning of the new church year, the first Sunday of the Advent season.

All: **Let us celebrate this season with joy in anticipation of the coming of the Lord.**

One: Stay awake! The reign of God is very near!

All: **We are here, watching and waiting with HOPE. Let us rejoice in God as Children of the Light!**

*HYMN 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming* LLANGLOFFAN

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect any wonders from your hand. We fail to see your amazing work in the lives of those around us. We don't see your hand in the happenings of the world. We see only ourselves and our concerns, consumed by the busy-ness of this holiday season. We fail to notice those who are hungry and thirsty, alienated and marginalized. And we fail to recognize our responsibility to care for those who are in need. We come to you with contrite hearts, O God, asking for your forgiveness for what we have done and not done. Give us a fresh start, a new beginning as we go forward into this season of service.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from 2 Cor. 5:17*

One: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: **AMEN.**

**for portions marked with an asterisk, you're invited to rise in body or spirit*

*PASSING THE PEACE

We invite you to share the peace of Christ with others.

*RESPONSE 581

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.

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 64:1-9

(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM 89 *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

SECOND READING

MARK 13:24-37

SERMON

"Hope, really?"

Elder Karen May

Responding to the Word

*HYMN 97 *Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night* ABERYSTWYTH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.

SHARING OUR PRAYERS

See prayer concerns list, back page

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

page 35 in hymnal

GIVING BACK TO GOD'S KINGDOM

from 1 Peter 3:8-15

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

OFFERTORY

*THE DOXOLOGY 606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below; Praise God above, you heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Sends Us Forth

*HYMN 105 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*BLESSING

HYMN 103 *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* (vrs 1) O-So-So

POSTLUDE

Visiting today? Welcome!

Please tell us a little about yourself! You can scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out our online form. We would love to get to know you better!



This Week

TODAY @ 4:00pm - Interracial Dialogue
TODAY @ 7:00pm - Joint Christmas Choir Concert @ First United Methodist Church
Tue., Dec. 5 @ 11:00am - Outing to Boone Tavern
Tue., Dec. 5 @ 5:00pm - Christian Education Meeting
Wed., Dec. 6 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., Dec. 7 @ 4:00pm - Worship Meeting
Thur., Dec. 7 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Fri., Dec. 8 @ 11:00am - Personnel Committee Meeting
Sat., Dec. 9 @ 10:30am - Needle Workers Group

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Susie Lackey
Ushers.....John & Cathy Wright
Audio.....Terry Randall
Video.....Richard Wright
Coffee Plus.....Jo Salmon

First Reading—Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Reading—Mark 13:24-37

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Scripture verses taken from the New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Angie Butler; David Bosh; Barbie Cooper; Natalie Brock; Lynn Cain; Rogelio Castillo; Don Haney; Pauline & Bill House's son, Jack Wood; Autumn Brock's mom, Marie; Jennifer Williams; Glenda Wilson; Pat Carpenter; Bill House; Ed & Joyce Mick; Leslie Phillips

Current Giving

	Rec'd month of Nov.	Needed Monthly	Received YTD	Needed YTD
Pledged Offering	\$10,699	\$13,934	\$140,176	\$153,271
Non-Pledged	\$4,938	\$3,154	\$48,227	\$34,698

Blessing Box Attendant

This Week.....Wallers
Next Week.....Christie Adams

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Jon Burlew
Ushers.....Carol Wade & Erin Stephens
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Suzanne Kidd
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Elder Karen May

Deacons:

Paula Burlew	Eileen Stockham	Carol Prater
Cindy Fountain	Mary Beth Waller	Sue Guffey
Marshall Judy	Marci Randall	

Elders:

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
Forrest Brock	Charles Leveridge	
Kimberly King	Zack Vaught	Sharon Mandt
Chris Phillips	John Wright	Perry Waller

First Presbyterian Church

December 3rd, 2023

First Sunday of Advent



Watkins, Carleton E., 1829-1916. Solar Eclipse from Mount Santa Lucia, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56320> [retrieved November 29, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carleton_Watkins_\(American_-_Solar_Eclipse_from_Mount_Santa_Lucia_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carleton_Watkins_(American_-_Solar_Eclipse_from_Mount_Santa_Lucia_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg)).

People of God, Welcome Home!

May Christ's peace and presence fill your heart as you worship this day, and may you go forth with the light and love of God shining within you.

We welcome you to worship, and ask that any electronic devices be placed on silent so that all may hear what God has to say.