

SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR DEC. 10, 2023

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT 95 *Prepare the Way of the Lord* PREPARE THE WAY

Gathering Around The Word

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *The King Family*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Isa. 40:3-5*

One: A voice cries in the wilderness,
All: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.
One: Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.
All: For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

***HYMN 106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO CONFESSION *from 2 Pet. 3:9b*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison) *from Ps. 85:2*
Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace.
We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.
Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Ps. 85:2, 8-9*

One: Children of God, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.
All: Thanks be to God!

***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.

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

Listening To the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION OF GOD'S WORD *from Ps. 85:8; Isa. 40:8*

FIRST READING ISAIAH 40:1-11
(The scripture readings can be found on the side panel of the bulletin)

ANTHEM *Hush, My Babe, Lie Still and Slumber* ISAAC WATTS
ARR. ORDER FORRESTER

SECOND READING MARK 1:1-8

SERMON "Preparing the Way of the Lord" Rev. Tim Noel

Responding to the Word

***HYMN 92** *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING (CASON)

***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 Ps. 85:12-13*

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. May your righteousness go before God and prepare a pathway for the Lord. Let us offer our lives and labor to God and fulfill our vows to the Most High.

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** *from Ps. 85:10*

God Sends Us Forth

***HYMN 87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* GENEVAN 42

***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 @ 12:00pm - CIA Gift Wrap Pizza Party
Tue., Dec. 11 @ 5:00pm - Earth Care Team Meeting
Wed., Dec. 13 @ 1:30pm - **NEW TIME!** Packing Food Boxes @ GFP
Wed., Dec. 13 @ 4:30pm - Mission Committee Meeting
Wed., Dec. 13 @ 6:30pm - Choir Practice
Thur., Dec. 14 @ 5:45pm - Centering Prayer
Fri., Dec. 15 @ 11:30am - Lunch Ladies to Wings & Rings
Sat., Dec. 16 @ 1:00pm - Food Box Give-A-Way

Worship Assistants Next Week

Liturgist.....Naomi Judy
Ushers.....Marshall Judy & Kim King
Audio.....Paul Guffey
Video.....Sue Guffey
Coffee Plus.....Marci Randall

First Reading—Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Reading—Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way,

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'"

⁴so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Prayers for Comfort, Concern, and Healing

Pat Carpenter's son, Hosh White; 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.....Christie Adams
Next Week.....Laura Kamperman

Assisting In Worship Today

Ministers.....Every Member
Liturgist.....Susie Lackey
Ushers.....John & Cathy Wright
Audio.....Terry Randall
Video.....Richard Wright
Coffee Plus.....Jo Salmon
Director of Music.....Theresa Jean Kibby
Piano & Organ.....Debby McDonald
Preacher.....Rev. Tim Noel

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 10th, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



John Baptizing Jesus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56384> [retrieved December 6, 2023]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Painted_Religious_Motifs_on_Facade_of_I_Jesus_Church_-_Axum_\(Aksum\)_-_Ethiopia_-_02_\(8701117241\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Painted_Religious_Motifs_on_Facade_of_I_Jesus_Church_-_Axum_(Aksum)_-_Ethiopia_-_02_(8701117241).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.