

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In Advent we watch and wait, preparing to welcome the Christ Child,  
praying,

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

In Advent we deepen the life of discipleship,  
watching for signs of God's light breaking into the world.

As we wait, we watch for signs of God's action in the world,  
notes of compassion and justice breaking in.

While we do not know the day or the hour,  
we know that the day is near.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Be born anew in our world and in our lives.**



\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Unison*)

Gracious God,

in this season as the days grow shorter and the shadows lengthen,  
we gather in eager expectation for the Light of the World to dawn.

Help us, God, to lay aside all the works of night

and any cynicism or discouragement as we enter this sacred season.

Send your Spirit that we may live in your light and walk in your ways.

Amen.

\* **HYMN #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

\* **INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

\* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Holy and Loving God,

we give thanks for the promise of this sacred season  
and for the joy that is ours in the Christ Child.

Yet even as we rejoice,

we recognize that we often fail to live alert to his coming.

In this season of anticipation, we are easily distracted  
by our own projects and preparation.

We forget to watch for the one who is the Source of our joy.

Forgive us, God, and restore our hope in you.

*Our prayers continue in silence.*

## \*LORD, HAVE MERCY

Musical score for "LORD, HAVE MERCY" in 4/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of treble and bass staves. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri - ste e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Text: Trad. liturgical text Music: Russian Orthodox chant

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The promise of the season of Advent  
is the promise of Emmanuel, God with us.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## \*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Musical score for "RESPONSE OF PRAISE" in 4/4 time, B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of a single treble staff. The lyrics are: At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow: To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One, all things on earth with one ac - cord, like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord. praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851  
Music: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9th cent.

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we are also to forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you!**

*Please take a moment to be thankful for God's peace.*



# The Word

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Romans 13:11-12 Pew Bible, pg. 162 (NT)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson (arr. Richard Erickson)

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ, I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 24:36-44 Pew Bible, pg. 27 (NT)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

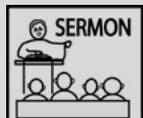
**SERMON** "The Armor of Light" Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler

\***HYMN #348** Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

\***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Unison*) *from* The Scots Confession, 1560

When the fullness of time came God sent the Son, God's eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so came among us the very Messiah promised whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, truly God and truly human.

That same eternal God and Father, who by grace alone chose us before the foundation of the world, appointed Christ to be our head, our brother, our pastor, and the great bishop of our souls.



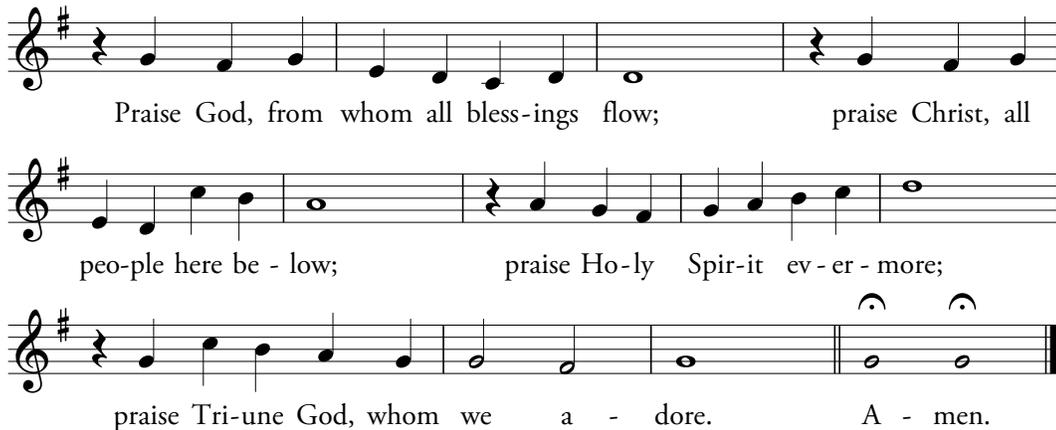
**OFFERTORY**      My Lord, What a Mornin'      Spiritual/arr. Howard Helvey

My Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.  
I'm done with all my worldly ways, joined that heavenly band.  
*(Paul Butler, bass)*

*Thank you for your faithful support of the church and Christ's ongoing ministry. You may give through the church website or mail your check to the church office.*

*Those attending worship in the sanctuary, please pass the fellowship registration pads down the row and sign them, then pass them back so you can greet those around you following the service. Those attending worship online, we invite you to fill out the welcome card found on the church website to let us know of your presence in worship today.*

**\*DOXOLOGY**



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;      praise Christ, all  
peo-ple here be - low;      praise Ho-ly Spir-it ev - er - more;  
praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore.      A - men.

Text: © 1990 by Neil Weatherhogg      Music: © 2008 by Hal H. Hopson

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

**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.



# The Sending

\***HYMN #104** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

\***BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Prelude and Fugue in B-flat Major, BWV 560 J.S. Bach

*Music reprinted under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) #A-706706.*

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor  
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate  
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate  
Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries  
Shelby Walker, Lay Reader

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*We join in holding in prayer:*  
Kathy Callas, Ed & Janice Gehrig, Fran Hermanson, Jack Schmidt, and  
others facing illness and loss.

*If you would like your name added to the prayer section of the weekly bulletin, or confidential prayers, please  
contact the church office at [office@firstpresportland.org](mailto:office@firstpresportland.org) or by phone at (503) 228-7331.*

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

*The flowers in the sanctuary today are given in loving memory of Dr. James and  
Mary Brown, by their family.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Welcome to Family and Friends of Liz Dean**

A special welcome to the family and friends of long time member Liz Dean who are joining us in worship today as a part of remembering Liz. Liz was baptized at FPC and was active in the choir for many years. The family invites those who knew Liz to an open house reception following the service at the family home, The Springs 3215 SW Scholls Ferry Ct, Portland OR. Music instruments welcome at the reception.

### **Advent Season Coffee Hour Crafts**

Advent is beginning! This year we will have extra Advent fun during our coffee hours after the worship services. Join us today downstairs in Geneva Hall for coffee or tea and a snack, and make a Christmas-themed coffee hour craft! Share your artistic talent and take home an ornament of your own making for your Christmas Tree! Actually, no artistic talent is required--just come and make an easy, fun and quick ornament or decoration, and be a part of the Christmas cheer!

### **Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at noon in the Whitman Room and on Zoom. The Zoom code will come later. The book, *The Girl with the Seven Names* by Hyconseo Lee, will be presented by Cindy Finch. This memoir is written by a woman who defected from North Korea to China, then to South Korea and deals with human rights, oppression. It is a riveting story of courage, cleverness and commitment to freedom.

### **Back by Popular Demand: Soft Goods Collection**

Do you have old clothing, shoes, bags, luggage, bedding that you have been meaning to toss or rehome? Bring it to church! The youth are once again collecting soft goods to raise money for the 2023 Mission trip to the Philippines. Bring washed soft goods (in any condition) to be re-sold or re-cycled. Items can be dropped off in Geneva Hall under the "Soft Goods" sign

### **Last Sunday for the Giving Tree**

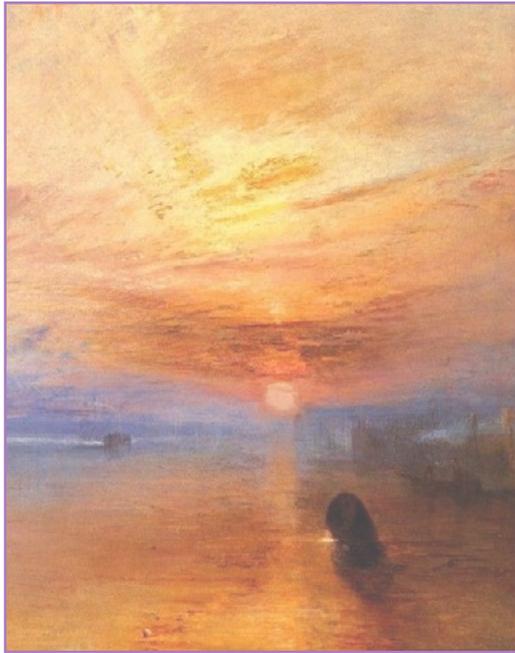
It is not too late to get your tag from the Giving Tree before and after the church service today. The gifts and gift cards are due back by the December 4 service. They can also be delivered to the church office during office hours, Tuesday-Thursday 10-4. Online gifts are available at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCGivingTree2022>  
Thank you to all who are making someone's Christmas bright!

### **Christmas Poinsettias**

Every year poinsettias adorn our sanctuary and are given to home-bound or ill members of First Presbyterian Church to brighten their holidays. You can help offset the cost of the poinsettias by donating \$18 in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Order forms are included in the bulletin to fill out with names of those remembered or honored and an option for payment online through CCB, or you may mail a check to First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder St, Portland, OR 97205 with POINSETTIA in the memo line. The final date for ordering is Tuesday, December 6. Names of those remembered or honored will be published in our December 18 worship bulletin.

### **Coping During Holidays Can Be Difficult**

As the holidays approach, loss and grief can affect our daily lives with deeper power. Stephen Ministers in our congregation stand ready to help you cope by offering a faithful listening ear. We are lay volunteers who are trained to provide confidential, empathetic, one-to-one, supervised, Christ-centered care. To find out more about how a Stephen Minister can support you as you negotiate tough times, please contact Pastor Brenna or Pastor Audrey at the church.



“Put on the armor of light” Romans 13: 12  
detail from a painting, “The Fighting” of  
J.M.W. Turner, 1839



LOVE GOD.  
LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

**Vision Statement:**

We commit to be a church that is:

**Engaged.** A forward-thinking and involved congregation committed to each other and to the wider community.

**Inclusive.** A faith community that affirms and welcomes all people.

**Compassionate.** A congregation that follows in Christ’s way, advancing the well-being and dignity of all people, working for a just and equitable society, and caring for all creation.

**Faithful.** Living our faith authentically with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love while expanding the circle where God’s love is known.

## PRINCIPAL CHURCH STAFF

### Pastoral

Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Spencer Parks, Menucha Director, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Brenna Dykman, Associate Pastor  
Rev. David Dornack, Parish Associate  
Rev. Carmen Goetschius, Parish Associate

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