



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WICHITA FALLS

A GUIDE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Arr. John Innes

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP | Malachi 2 & 3, adapted**

Has not the one God made you?

We belong to God in body and in spirit

And what does the one God seek?

To be on our guard and to be faithful.

The Lord will send his messenger,

The Lord, whom we desire, will come.

O Lord of Hosts, prepare us for that coming.

***OPENING PRAYER**

December 5, 2021

*HYMN OF PRAISE | On Jordan's Bank

Charles Coffin

Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg 1690

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make
3. All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh: a - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
pare a home where such a might - y Guest may come.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we recognize that Your ways are mysterious. Teach us to be still and to wait for You. We confess our sinfulness, our need for control, and our discomfort with the unknown. Instead of turning to You, we numb our pain with temporary distractions. We pretend to have our lives together when we really feel inadequate and insecure. Thank You for Your patience with us when we are slow to recognize Your activity in our lives. You never give up on us, O Lord. God of grace, You show up in our lives in the most unexpected ways. Surprise us this week with an awareness of Your presence. Replace our fear with trust. Turn our anxiety into wonder. Give us Your peace and joy as we live by faith and not by sight. In the strong Name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Time for silent prayer and confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND COMFORT

“The Lord is our righteousness...” Jeremiah 34:16

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | The Lunn Family

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*SONG OF HOPE & TRUST | Even So Come

*All of creation all of the earth
Make straight a highway a path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon*

*Call back the sinner wake up the saint
Let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon*

CHORUS

*Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

*There will be justice all will be new
Your name forever faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon*

CHORUS

*So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
So we wait we wait for You
God we wait You're coming soon
(Repeat)*

*Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Like a bride waiting for her groom
We'll be a Church ready for You
Ev'ry heart longing for our King we sing
Even so come Lord Jesus come
Even so come Lord Jesus come*

All children are welcome to come to the front for a kid friendly message following the Song of Hope and Trust.

MOMENTS WITH CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 WORD PROCLAIMED

Luke 3:1-6 p. 858 in pew Bible

"Prepare for Joy: The Right Way to Prepare" | Rev. Michael Hansen

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

The offering of time, money, and talents is a commitment to God and our participation in God's redeeming work in the world. You are welcome to place a financial gift to God as the offering plate is passed. You may also give online at myfirstpres.org/giving or text "give" to 830-584-1063.

OFFERTORY

ANTHEM | I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Pepper Choplin

*I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."
Come and make straight the way in the desert,
a highway for our God.*

*Come and make straight the way in the desert,
Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*I hear Isaiah callin', "Fear not, your God has come."
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf will hear.
And the mute will shout for joy.*

*And the desert will be joyful and blossom as a rose.
We shall rejoice with joy and singing
and see the glory of God.*

*DOXOLOGY

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.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | The 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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER

*SENDING HYMN | The Morning Light Is Breaking, No. 499 (see p. 6)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Now You Come Down, Jesus, from Heaven

J. S. Bach

All are sent to serve and love the Lord following the Benediction.

*SENDING HYMN | The Morning Light Is Breaking, No. 499

Samuel Smith

George Webb

1. The morn - ing light is break - ing, the dark - ness dis - ap - pears;
 2. See na - tions hum - bly bend - ing be - fore the God we love,
 3. Blest riv - er of sal - va - tion, pur - sue thy on - ward way;

the sons of earth are wak - ing to pen - i - ten - tial tears;
 and thou - sand hearts as - cend - ing in grat - i - tude a - bove:
 flow thou to ev - 'ry na - tion, nor in thy rich - ness stay:

each breeze that sweeps the o - cean brings ti - dings from a - far
 while sin - ners, now con - fess - ing, the gos - pel call o - bey,
 stay not till all the low - ly tri - um - phant reach their home;

of na - tions in com - mo - tion, pre - pared for Zi - on's war.
 and seek the Sav - ior's bless - ing, a na - tion in a day.
 stay not till all the ho - ly pro - claim, "The Lord is come."

Announcements

December 5, 2021

EVERYONE

Advent Devotionals

First Pres is providing "The Gospel of Advent" devotionals for you and your family to use in December. Please only take one devotional per household.

Poinsettia Sales

Ends today, December 5th. Look for tables set up outside of the Sanctuary. The cost will be \$15/plant.

Interfaith Needs for December

- Soups
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Boxed potatoes

There are drop off bins outside of the church office and inside the door of the Atrium.

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24th 6:00 PM

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 26th 10:30 AM

EVERYONE

MSU Pancake Feed

TONIGHT from 6:00 - 8:00 PM the Fellowship Hall will be bustling with college students from MSU.

One Starry Night

An interactive Advent event for families! Sunday, December 12th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. An opportunity for your family to experience a special night in Bethlehem. Dinner will be served and your family can walk through the tents in Bethlehem and hear about the night our Savior was born (crafts, goodies, stories and more!)

A Night Of Christmas Joy

On Thursday, December 16th at 6:00 PM. A family fun evening of Christmas music, light refreshments, and a walk through the Fantasy of Lights!!

MINISTRY STAFF

Michael Hansen, Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

Michael Morris, Assistant Pastor/
Director of Student Ministries

Lance Hargis, Director of Music

Dustin Fike, Director of Contemporary Music

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of this Advent season by a generous donation from the Janet Clay Fund.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3601 TAFT BOULEVARD,
WICHITA FALLS, TX
940.767.2547

WWW.MYFIRSTPRES.ORG