

WORSHIP AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



THE SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

# Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church

*Sharing the grace of God with one another and the world around us.*



This church welcomes you no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people; if you are looking for a home, stay here; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often.

Please visit our website [2ndpreslou.org](http://2ndpreslou.org) to connect with various ministries, or to contact the office for more information about our faith community.

If you are new to us, scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn about our life at Second.



*Children of God, welcome home!*

Thank you for silencing mobile phones and other devices  
to honor the sanctity of our worship.



For our 11:00 a.m. worshipers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.

*\* Please stand if you can do so comfortably.*

**Bold type** *is sung or read in unison.*

# *Service for the Lord's Day*

## *The Gathering*

11:00 a.m. TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Chorale Prelude on GENEVAN 42* Gerald Near

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT *Every Valley Shall Be Exalted from Messiah* G.F. Handel  
Ricky Case, soloist

*Recitative:* Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.  
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,  
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.  
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness;  
prepare ye the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Aria:* Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low;  
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

*Isaiah 40: 1-4*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Chip & Susan Snyder

11:00 a.m. Patrick, Angela and Hayden Duffy

As shadows lengthen and chaos roars,

God's prophet cries out, "prepare the way of the Lord!"

**Courage awakens in us, a spark to brighten the way.**

Feeble light grows steadily,

A source of peace for an uncertain world.

**Visions arise within us,**

**A long time coming, yet still unexpected.**

As we light our second Advent candle,

**Hope and peace shine bright, pushing back the darkness:**

**The dawn of God's kingdom in our midst.**

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

**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.**

*Time for silent prayer.*

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE HYMN *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Becki Slagle Mayo

*11:00 a.m.: Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are invited to come forward; they will be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

*Choir:* Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!**

*Choir:* Light the candle, watch and pray, the Child of Peace will come to save.  
Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!

**ALL: Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE *read responsively*

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## *The Word*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1–11

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Peter 3:8–15a

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

*About Time*

Rev. Andrew Bowman

# The Response

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

*from The United Church of Canada*

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website. You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!*



ANTHEM

*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*

HELMSLEY, arr. Willcocks

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at nought and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing.  
Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshipers.

With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

*Charles Wesley*

*\*Please stand and join in singing when invited.*

**Yea, amen, let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,**

**Claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *read in 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

\*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Rhapsody on Helmsley*

William Lloyd Webber

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.*

*You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.*

## *In Worship Today*

### PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is "The Word of Life." Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God's seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is "The Font of Identity." The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is "The Table of Sustenance."*

### THE CHAPEL ADVENT CANDLE STAND

*The Advent candle stand found in the Chapel is constructed of cherry and maple wood, stained red cherry and finished with lacquer and polished with paste wax. The lathed candle holders are etched with 3 rings representing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Attached at the bottom of the main pole is an acorn symbolizing God's abundant forgiveness, love, and grace. The stand was constructed by Dr. Larry Boram and the wood was donated by Dr. Lynn Ogden.*

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given in memory of his mother, Dorothy Carothers, by Scott Carothers.

### USHERS

8:30 Tom Tyrrell, Patti Ogden

11:00 Barker Price, Joan Price, Linda Watson, Carol McCarthy, Sudie Mosely, Edie Wells

### OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Andrew Bowman, preacher; Elizabeth Clay (11:00 a.m.) & Rev. Steve Jester, liturgists;  
Christina Recktenwald (8:30 a.m.) & Emily Lawrence (11:00 a.m.), lay readers

The Sanctuary Choir; Jim Rittenhouse, Director; Samuel Libra, Organist

Evan Vicic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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## *We Lift Up in Prayer*

LaMar Gaston, Joan Gaston, Page Penna, and their family on the death of LaMar's son, Mark, 11/24/23.

Sue Rogers and her family on the death of her father, O.D., 11/8/23.

Kyle Wiggins and his family on the death of his father, Mac, 10/14/23.

Eric Jaegers and his family on the death of his mother, Pat, 10/9/23.

The family and friends of Ellie Salisbury on her death, 10/7/23.

# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.



## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 104

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel-come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me;  
 3 You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good-will,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro-cured my lib - er - ty.  
 to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, a lamp with - in my breast,  
 O love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 in love, all loves ex - cel - ling, our lost and fal - len race.  
 when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

Though many Advent hymns address Christ with entreaty and invitation, this more contemplative text considers how an individual prepares for and responds to Christ's coming. It also brings together a recollection of the First Coming with an anticipation of the Second Coming.

## *The Ministry Team*

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Paula S. Roberts	<i>Organist Emerita</i>



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CHURCH

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