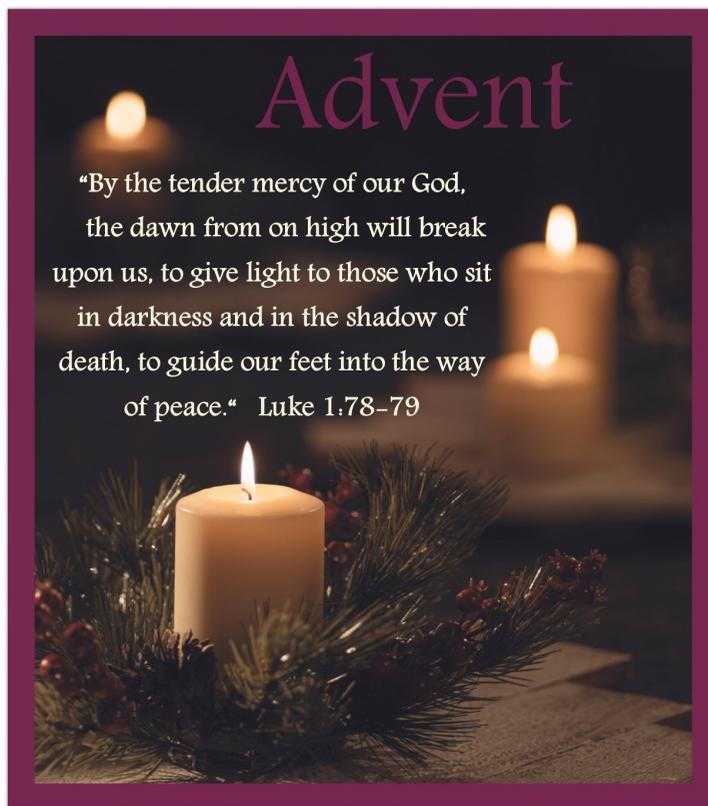


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Stockton, CA**

**November 28, 2021—10:30 a.m.**



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE  
Go to the Church’s Website.  
Click on Ministries and Worship.  
Use the YouTube link  
to find today’s worship service**



**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

**~GATHERING THE FAMILY OF GOD~**

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Ashley Love

**CHORAL INTROIT**

Temple Choir

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Alessio Family

Today on the first Sunday of the Advent Season we light the candle of Hope. We light Advent candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. We carry in our hearts the flame of hope, remembering for whom we wait. Our Messiah is God's infinite majesty and ever-present love, dwelling with us. His reign of justice and peace will have no end.

We cry out in hope:

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

People of Hope, let us walk in the light of God. **Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

# 82

- V.1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
- V.2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

Carol Dietrich

One: Trusting in God's grace, let us bring our burdens to the one who already knows all we carry and still bids us come.

**All:** Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

### **A MOMENT FOR CONTEMPLATION**

*(This single minute of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.)*

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Carol Dietrich

**One:** In Advent we sink into the hope that God's plan for our redemption is greater than we could ever imagine. We stand in awe of God's grace as we declare the good news of the gospel.

**All:** In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Carol Dietrich

**One:** *Having received such an amazing gift of grace and peace in Jesus Christ, let us share it with each other. May the peace of our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.*

**All:** **And also with you.**

**One:** *Let's share the peace of Christ with each other, with a wave or a text or any greeting that is available to us.*

### **CHILDREN'S CHECK IN**

### **ANTHEM**

Temple Choir

### **~HEARING GOD'S WORD~**

### **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD**

Carol Dietrich

**One:** O God, send your Spirit to us to open our hearts, so that we may discern your word in and through the words that we are about to hear. Amen.

### **READING FROM THE PSALMS**

Psalm 25:1-10

Carol Dietrich

**One:** *The Word of the Lord.*      **All:** **Thanks be to God.**

## LESSON FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE (OLD TESTAMENT)

Jeremiah 33:14-16

*One: The Word of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God**

### MESSAGE

*A Promise of Righteousness*

Pastor Ashley

### REFLECTION SONG

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

#129

- V.1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
- V.2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
- V.3. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

#### ADVENT PRAYER

Let us bring our hearts to God in prayer, saying

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, that we would be a sign of your promised peace. Make us worthy witnesses to Christ who has claimed and called us to faith.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world, that there would be a way in the wilderness. Bring justice and equality to every land and let all creatures know your saving love.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community, that you would send messengers of your way among us to kindle in us a passion for what is right. Cleanse us from all corruption and hatred.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones, that your tender mercy would shine on them. Give light to those who wait in darkness and guide their feet into the path of peace.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayer.**

Prepare your way in us, O Lord, that we may rejoice and be glad when your reign of glory is before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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.**

**~GOING FORTH TO SERVE GOD~**

**\*SENDING HYMN**                      *Everlasting God*  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
We will wait upon the Lord  
(2x)

Our God, you reign forever  
Our hope, our strong deliverer

Chorus:

You are the everlasting God, the everlasting God  
You do not faint, you won't grow weary  
You're the defender of the weak. You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL AMEN**

**\*POSTLUDE**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We hope you can join us today for in-person **Fellowship** in Westminster Hall following the Congregational meeting. There will be coffee and cookies.

Please join us for **Coffee Hour via Zoom** this Sunday at 12:30pm. The meeting ID number is 862 6004 7427 or you can call in using the number 669 900 9128 and put in the meeting ID number just like a conference call. See your email for a clickable link.

Our mid-week **Prayer Gathering** continues on **Thursdays at 10am** in the Parlor. Please bring your mask.

**Church-wide informational session and discussion about LGBTQ welcome and inclusion with Rev. Brian Ellison, Covenant Network, Saturday December 11th, 10:30am-2:30pm.** All are invited to this informal gathering where we will learn about the history and theological basis for inclusion in the Presbyterian Church(USA), and consider our part to play in welcoming our LGBTQ neighbors. Bring your questions, and your appetite as lunch will be provided.

**Save the date for our Second Annual Zoom Christmas Pageant, 5pm, December 19th.** Please let Pastor Ashley know if you would like to take part in this fun event.

**Christmas Eve Service, 7pm,** followed by soup supper.

**Lectionary December 5th—2nd Sunday of Advent**

Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 1:68-79 ~ Philippians 1:3-11 ~ Luke 3:1-6

## REQUESTED PRAYERS

The Church Office and members of the church receive several prayer requests each week. *Please pray for:*

- ◆ Prayers for Kathy White's family—Tom, Olivia, and Hillary—as they deal with her death on November 15th.
- ◆ Prayers for Alice Callistro's continuing recovery from recent cataract surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for Cynthia Allison as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for healing for Margaret Zuckerman following surgery for a hip broken when she fell. She is now at a rehabilitation facility as she begins the process of healing.
- ◆ Prayers for Don Hover, who has terminal muscular atrophy and for Mary Lou for strength and direction during this difficult time.
- ◆ Prayers for Ruth Strombom, who fell and broke her hip, is wheelchair bound, and at a rehab facility in Washington.
- ◆ Continued prayers of thankfulness that Joy Panzer is making progress on her healing journey.
- ◆ Prayers for Tom Alexander as he recovers from a stroke at home (after a 4 week hospital stay).
- ◆ Prayers for Marilyn Vaughn's work colleague, Pam, whose husband was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer and is responding to treatment.
- ◆ Prayers also for Kathy's son, Tom, and daughter-in-law, Olivia, who are dealing with pregnancy complications.
- ◆ We pray for healing for Gretchen Louden's friend, Hamish, who is recovering from a recent heart procedure.
- ◆ Prayers for Eleanor Lawrence's friends Susanne and Paul, whose son Drew is at home and is still recovering.
- ◆ Prayers for the Vaughns' sons' Pastor's wife, Jane Pool, and her family. She was in an auto accident. She is home recovering.
- ◆ Prayers for Jim Sepiol as he continues his recovery from hip replacement surgery.
- ◆ Prayers for relief from hand pain for Cecelia Muller.
- ◆ Marilyn Lloyd asks for prayers for her grandniece's mother-in-law, Anne, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer, as well as prayers of support for her family.
- ◆ We ask for healing and restoration for all those who face medical challenges, especially COVID-19 and the after effects of the virus:
  - Kim Roider's cousin whose Parkinson's disease progressing.
  - Michelle Thompson, Cynthia Allison's sister's daughter-in-law, who had cancer surgery, could not tolerate chemo, and is now waiting to see if the tumor returns.
  - Mara Duffy requests prayer for David Washburn for health reasons

## **First Presbyterian Church of Stockton**

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Stockton, CA 95202

209-465-2653

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm

[www.fpcstockton.org](http://www.fpcstockton.org)

Email: [office@fpcstockton.org](mailto:office@fpcstockton.org)

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### **Church Staff**

#### **Ministers:**

Clerk of Session

Office Manager:

Custodian:

Bookkeeper:

Music Team:

Pastor:

#### **All the members of the Church**

Elder Kathy White

Suzi Treganza

Victor Naranjo

Cindy Chan

John Vaughn

Ethan Albala

Rev. Ashley M. Love

*If you have a prayer request, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Ashley.*

Joys and concerns are added to the prayer list of the people who have signed up to be members of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM. If you would like to be a part of the WE CARE PRAYER TEAM, contact Cheryl Hunt or call the Church Office.

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