

SANCTUS 552

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord of light and darkness, send your Spirit upon us.

**We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice.**

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for your joy.

We whose hearts are heavy seek your presence.

**We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.**

To you we say,

“Come, Lord Jesus!”

Come to us in this bread and in this wine,

And send us out to be your servants to the world.

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Breaking and Sharing of the Bread

Pouring and Sharing of the Cup

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION *Come, O Come, Lord Jesu* J. S. Bach
*Come Redeemer of the earth, Holy Jesus. Manifest Your holy birth, Loving
Jesu. Heavenly gift of greatest worth, Blessed Jesu. Come, O Come, Lord
Jesu. Dayspring of the world draw near, Holy Jesu. Bless us with your
Advent here, Loving Jesu. Daystar in our hearts appear, Blessed Jesu. Come,
O Come, Lord Jesu. Child of mercy child of grace, Holy, Jesu. Vision of the
Father's face, Loving Jesu. Born to ransom every race, Blessed Jesu. Come,
O Come, Lord Jesu.*

Prayer of Dedication 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.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 82

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* Paul Manz

**Please stand if you are able.*

WELCOME

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville. We have been part of the downtown Knoxville community since 1792. We embrace people from all walks of life and seek to share our spiritual journey with our community. We are part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). We are delighted that you have joined us in worship today.

To learn more about us, please make a note on the Friendship Pad, sign up for our Thursday newsletter, or connect with us at fpcknox.org, via the QR code to the right, or through social media.



Hearing enhancement devices and large print hymnals are available for use during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance.

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the offering plates when they are passed, or you are invited to give securely online at www.fpcknox.org/donate or by scanning the QR code to the right with your smart phone.



STAFF AND LEADERS IN WORSHIP

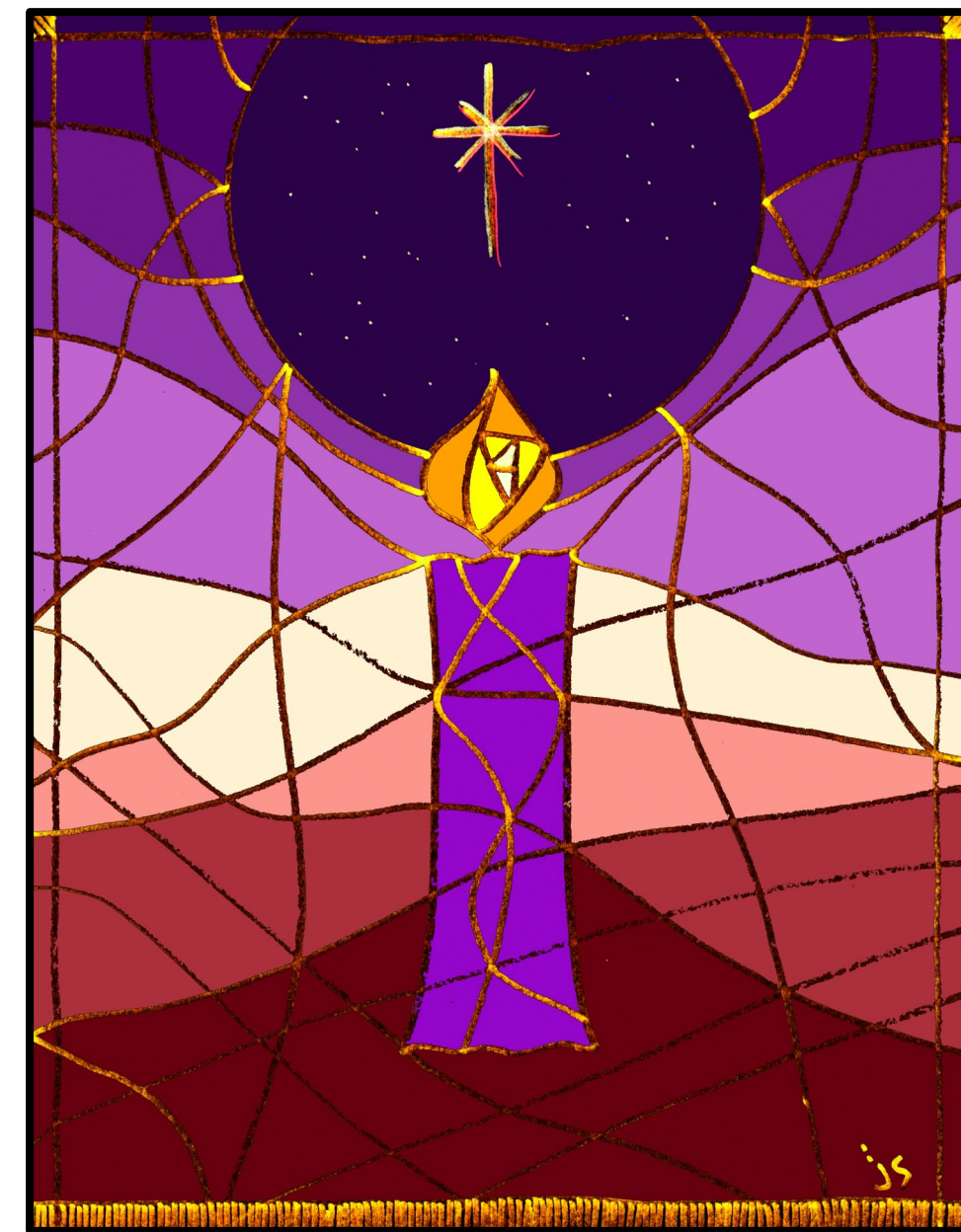
The Rev. Mark R. Curtis <i>Senior Pastor</i>	Laura Harmon <i>Church Administrator</i>
The Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis <i>Associate Pastor</i>	Lauren Nunn <i>Director of Parent's Day Out / Childcare Coordinator</i>
Dr. Andy Morgan <i>Director of Family Faith Formation</i>	Sandra Robinson <i>Administrative Assistant</i>
Mark Pace <i>Organist/Choirmaster</i>	Victor Lenoir <i>Custodian</i>
Mary Wilson <i>Adult Ministry Coordinator</i>	Paul Seguna <i>Sound Engineer</i>
Katie Norrell <i>Director of Communications</i>	Charlie Smith <i>Crucifer</i>
Jane Holland <i>Director of Finance/Facilities</i>	Laura Smith <i>Bible Bearer</i>

WORSHIP MUSIC NOTES

<i>"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"</i> <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i> Tune: Veni Emmanuel <i>Comfort, Comfort Now My People</i> Tune: Genevan 42 <i>Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying</i>	One License # 00481	<i>The Days Are Surely Coming</i> Tune: Llanglofan <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i> Tune: Hyfrydol	One License # 97148
	One License # 10-360-5		

FOR OUR YOUNGER WORSHIPPERS

All children are welcome in worship at FPC. Children, Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, are invited to attend Children's Worship in the Children's Area (2nd floor) after Special Time with Young Disciples. Worship Bags are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. A nursery is available for children, in preschool and younger, in the Nursery rooms (2nd floor).



By Stushie Art

First Presbyterian Church
FOR CHRIST IN THE HEART OF KNOXVILLE

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

Connect With Us



www.fpcknox.org

620 State Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

THE PREPARATION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE Prelude Reflections on “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the day that the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF ADVENT *Hope* Kelly and Katie Norrell

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,
and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars.
By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys.
By these stars, they knew God was with them.

**Today we light one candle to bring the fire of the stars
down from heaven to earth,
to dwell among the people of God.**

We name this candle Hope.

We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way.

But we chart our path by the star of hope.

**Even when better days seem very far away
and the weight of the world seems to crush our hope,
we set our face steadily towards the light.**

Listen now to the prayer of an ancient poet:

“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us.” (Psalm 67:5-8).

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week,
help us to become the signs of hope
that others are searching for.**

**As this candle is but a glimpse of the light of the heavens,
help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1-4) 88

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we praise you for sending light into this world.
We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated
darkness and we live without hope. We confess that we ignore
the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We have
kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting
hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us
for His return. Fill us with Your hope. Help us rejoice in the
light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of
our hearts. Amen.**

(a moment for silent confession)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (verse 1) 87
“*Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!*” *So says our God.*
“*Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.*
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

***MUSICAL RESPONSE** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (verse 7) 88
O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s
peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 64:1-9 Sharon Frankenberg

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the
mountains would quake at your presence— ² as when fire kindles
brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known
to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for
those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who
remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because
you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a
leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who
calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden
your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your
people.

SPECIAL TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES Dr. Andy Morgan

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the
moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and
the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see ‘the Son of
Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out
the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the
earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as
its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer
is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he
is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass
away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass

away, but my words will not pass away. ³² “But about that day or hour no
one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.
³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It
is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves
in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on
the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the
master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at
cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON Rev. Dr. Meredith Loftis

THE RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** *The Days Are Surely Coming* 357

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing* Johann S. Bach/Leavitt
*Zion hears the watchmen singing and in her heart new joy is springing. She
wakes, she rises from her gloom, for her Lord comes down all glorious, the
strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her star is risen, her light is come. Oh come
you Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son. Sing Hosanna, the joyful call we
answer all, and follow to the nuptial hall. Now let all the heavens adore Thee.
And saints and angels sing before Thee. The harp and cymbals all unite. Of one
pearl each shining portal. Where swelling with the choir immortal, we gather
round your dazzling light. No vision ever brought, no ear has ever caught, such
great glory; therefore will we eternally sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee.*

***DOXOLOGY** *Old Hundredth*
**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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We were not there when you created the world, O God,
though you knew us even then...

Therefore, with all who have watched for your coming,
with the faithful of all the ages, with all the company of heaven,
we praise your holy name, singing,

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The greens of Advent point to the Christian symbolism of the everlasting nature of God and through him everlasting life. Advent is a period of anticipation and reflection as we move toward Christmas. Your generous donations have served to support our flower ministry and the work of our devoted flower guild. If you wish to honor or remember a loved one during this sacred season the flower ministry welcomes your donations. We would love to arrange with them in mind. If you wish to make a donation and dedication, a donation of \$20.00 per name is suggested.

You may email your flower forms to laura@fpcknox.org (please only list one name per line) OR for the first time, you can submit your Christmas flower dedications online. Under the "Quick Links" button on the website, there is a menu item for Christmas Flowers. "You can pay in our online giving portal in the "Christmas Flowers" category or by dropping a check in the offering plate or church office." Please be sure to designate "Christmas Flowers" in the memo line. All submissions must be received by noon on December 18th. Thank you for supporting the flower guild!

In Memory Of

In Honor Of

Given By

