



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 • (479) 442-4411 • www.fupcfay.org

November 28, 2021

8:30 a.m.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
15th Century Plainsong; Arranged by David Lanz

Isaac Thomas, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jan Butin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Come and level the ground that we stand on.

Come and smooth out the differences between us, until everyone has enough and we can all see you in our midst.

Prepare your way into our lives and our world. Fill us with the hope of justice.

Come and reveal your comfort, your grace, and your glory.

*ADVENT HYMN 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Words by Johannes Olearius; Music by Genevan Psalter

Glory to God

“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.”

**For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.**

O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.

Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,

And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

ADVENT SERVICE OF PREPARATION *(Isaiah 40:1-5)*

The Millett Family

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Today we light the candle of Hope. Hope is the confident affirmation that God is faithful.

We wait patiently and ardently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.

(Light one purple candle.)

ADVENT SONG

Candles Glowing, Promise Showing

Words by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy, 2021; Traditional Polish Carol

Can-dles glow - ing, prom-ise show - ing the great hope that calms our fear.
Dark-ness scat - ters, wor-ry shat - ters, Christ will al - ways draw us near.
Calms our sigh - ing, hears our cry - ing, helps our try - ing, love un - dy - ing;
Christ will al - ways draw us near! Christ will al - ways draw us near.

ADVENT PRAYER

God of all comfort, our world is full of dry and uneven places. Sometimes we despair that things can never be fair or right or just for everyone. This morning, fill us with hope. Hope of your gracious forgiveness for all the inequities we have created in our world. Hope that the ground we stand on can be leveled. Hope that the differences between us can be smoothed. Hope that in this Advent season, you will come to us again on a highway into our lives and world; a highway that sets things straight. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Coming One. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S SONG

O, Come, Little Children

Words and Music by Johann A. P. Achultz (1747—1800)

O, come, lit - le chil - dren, O, come, one and all,
O, come, to the man - ger in Beth - le - hem's stall,
sing glo - ry to God in the heav - ens a - bove,
and thank Him for Je - sus, the proof of God's love.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Be Born in Me

Paige DeJarnett, alto

Words by Bernie Herms and Nichole Nordeman

Everything inside me cries for order, everything inside me wants to hide.
Is this shadow an angel or a warrior? If God is pleased with me, why am I so terrified?
Someone tell me I am only dreaming, somehow help me see with heaven's eyes.
And before my head agrees, my heart is on its knees. Holy is He. Blessed am I.
Be born in me. Be born in me. Trembling heart, somehow I believe that You chose me.
I'll hold You in the beginning, You will hold me in the end.
Every moment in the middle, make my heart Your Bethlehem. Be born in me.
All this time we've waited for the promise, all this time You waited for my arms.
Did You wrap Yourself inside the unexpected so we might know that Love would go that far?
Be born in me. Be born in me. Trembling heart, somehow I believe that You chose me.
I'll hold You in the beginning, You will hold me in the end.
Every moment in the middle, make my heart Your Bethlehem. Be born in me.

I am not brave; I'll never be. The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy.
I'm just a girl, nothing more. I am willing, I am Yours.
Be born in me. Be born in me. I'll hold You in the beginning, You will hold me in the end.
Every moment in the middle, make my heart Your Bethlehem. Be born in me.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:6-9, 19-23

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and

did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.

SERMON

All We Want for Christmas is Hope

Rev. Phil Butin

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(from A Declaration of Faith)*

**Jesus Christ stands at the center of the biblical record.
The Bible is the account of God's word and action in history,
together with his people's response in faith.
It tells how the Lord has moved with Israel and the church
towards the kingdom of God,
his just and loving rule over all.
It is the story of the one God,
who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
That story is still unfolding
and in faith we make it our own.
It forms our memory and our hope.
It tells us who we are and what we are to do.
To retell it is to declare what we believe.**

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
18th Century French Carol; Arranged by David Lanz

Isaac Thomas, piano

*RESPONSE 104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (verse 1)
Words by Paul Gerhardt; Music by Melchior Teschner

Glory to God

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Isaac Thomas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in your grace, **you hear our 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.**

SENDING

*HYMN 86

The People Who Walked in Darkness (verses 1 and 3)

Words by Mary Louise Bringle; Music by Sally Ann Morris

Glory to God

**The people who walked in darkness awaken to see a great light.
The people who dwelt in the land of the shadow rise to a star shining bright.**

[Refrain] **His name is Wonderful, Counselor, Almighty God,
Father forever, Prince of Peace. Peace. Peace.**

**The yoke of despair and bondage, the chains of the slave master's rod
are shattered and scattered like dust in a windstorm, loosed by the justice of God. [Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE 95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Words by Taizé Community; Music by Jacques Berthier

Glory to God

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

POSTLUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten
13th Century Plainsong; Arranged by Jay Rouse

Isaac Thomas, piano

Phil and Jan Butin, Co-Pastors
Isaac Thomas, Director of Music Ministries
Hyun Kim, Organist
Paige DeJarnett, Alto Choral Intern
Tori Rudolph, Soprano Choral Intern
Emily Sink, Soprano Choral Intern
Martha Arambel, Interim Youth Leader
Kristi Button, Director of Christian Education

Christopher Verdery, Audio-Visual Coordinator
Rosie Haden, Communications Coordinator
Cathy Hairston, First School Director
Laura Winburn, Financial Administrator
Mindy Mock, Childcare Coordinator
Nicole Tillery, Childcare Provider (8:30 am)

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