

Responding to the Word

\*Hymn 88 vs. 1-4                      *Veni Emmanuel*  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)      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 Ghost,  
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 sitteth on the right  
hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he  
shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe  
in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the  
communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the  
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Call to Stewardship  
*All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.*

Offertory                                      Robert Lau  
“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

\*Congregational Response    Hymn 606    *Old Hundredth*  
**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.**

\*Offertory Prayer

**THE LORD’S SUPPER**  
*(Gluten-free bread is in small cups on each tray.)*

Communion Voluntary                      *Hymns of Faith*

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

\*Hymn 88 vs. 5-7                      *Veni Emmanuel*  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

\*Invitation to Discipleship

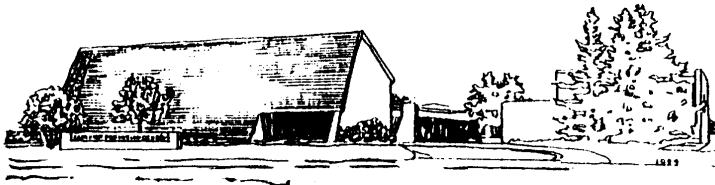
\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Choral Response    *Num Komm der Heiden Heiland*  
Sanctuary Choir

Savior of the nations, come;  
virgin’s son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
that the Lord chose such a birth.

\*Peace of Christ  
The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

\*Closing Voluntary                      J.S. Bach  
“Come, Savior of the Nations”



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Today’s Liturgy has been adapted from: (Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for  
Year A, Volume 1 and Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.))

# Hope

## Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working*

606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086  
817-594-2744  
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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

## THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 1, 2019

10:40 A.M.

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*\*The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.  
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

#### Welcome and Announcements

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

#### Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary J.S. Bach  
"Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland"

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light,  
and the Bible

Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
The Goeldner and Carpenter Families

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn 82 *Hyfrydol*  
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God of night and day, there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you and no secret that you will not bring to light. For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God. For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God. For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God. O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love, and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray...**

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

\*Congregational Response Hymn 95 *Prepare The Way*  
**Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all the people will see  
the salvation of our God.**

#### Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Music Ministry Mark Hayes  
"Awaken and Prepare Us"  
Sanctuary Choir

Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
for the light of Your saving Son.  
We look for the light, the light of the world,  
the light of the Promised One.  
Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
for the love of Your living Son.

We wait for Your love, for Your love to appear,  
the love of the Chosen One.  
Prepare us for the Promised One,  
the Chosen One, Emmanuel.  
Prepare us for the presence of God;  
ready our hearts for Him to dwell.

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.

Awaken and prepare us, O God,  
for the gift of Your giving Son.  
We watch for Your gift, for your gift of hope,  
the gift meant for everyone.

Prepare us for the Promised One,  
the Chosen One, Emmanuel.  
Prepare us for the presence of God.  
Ready our hearts for Him to dwell.

Children's Time The Rev. David A. Slyter

Children's Worship  
*Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may leave the Sanctuary  
at this time. Following worship, parents should  
pick up their child in room 6.*

First Reading Romans 13:11-14  
Pew Bible: Page 162

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Matthew 24:36-44  
Pew Bible: Page 28

The Word of God for the People of God  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz