



The Reverend Edith A. Gause, Interim Pastor  
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor  
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music



## THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 2, 2018 10:40 A.M.

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

#### Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! Today we begin the celebration of Advent. As we eagerly await the celebration of the Christ Child coming in late December, please worship with us as we light the Advent wreath, hear the voices of our children, and listen to the lessons of expectation. **(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worship near you.)**

#### Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

“Veni, Emmanuel”

Richard Purvis

Chimes

The Entrance of the Bible

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Stan and Kelly Baggett

\*Hymn 82

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Hyfrydol*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Because we have seen pain without being moved, because we forget your love with solemn pride, because we pass by comfortably before poverty and sadness,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For speaking of love without loving our sister or brother, for speaking of faith without living your word, for living as people who do not recognize our own sinfulness,

**Christ, have mercy.**

For our tranquility in our affluent life, for our great falsehood in preaching about poverty, for wanting to make excuse for injustice,

**Lord, have mercy.**

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

“Advent” means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God’s justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come — Jesus Christ our Savior.

The origin of the season of Advent is uncertain. It may have been patterned after the season of Lent as a period of penitence before Christmas, or as a time of preparation for baptism at Epiphany. The duration of Advent was, in some times and places, as long as six or seven weeks. The Revised Common Lectionary still anticipates the themes of Advent in the final three weeks of the Christian year, including Christ the King/Reign of Christ. This feature of the lectionary allows preachers and worship planners to get a head start on Advent before it is eclipsed by preparations for Christmas.

*From the Book of Common Worship 2018 edition*

Prayer After the Meal (Unison)  
**Mighty God, holy is you name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeling the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.**

**Bearing and Following the Word into the World**

- \*Hymn 515

“I Come with Joy”

*Dove of Peace*
- \*Invitation to Discipleship
- \*Charge and Benediction
- \*Closing Choral Response

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Sanctuary Choir

*Prepare the Way*
- Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.**
- \*Closing Voluntary

“Come, Savior of the Nations”

J. S. Bach

*Today’s lectionary is from The Book of Common Worship,  
2018 edition, of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.*

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsive)  
Hear the good news, people of God! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to God. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.  
**Glory to God. Amen.**

- \*Congregational Response

Hymn 93 v.1

*Truro*
- Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
Behold the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.**

**Proclaiming the Word**

Prayer of Illumination (Unison)  
**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promised fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- Music Ministry

“Shout for Joy, Ye People”

Sanctuary Choir

*Shout for joy, ye people of Zion.  
See a King comes unto you.  
Shout for joy, ye people of Zion,  
come rejoicing, for the Lord is coming soon!*

The deserts all break forth as spring,  
the rivers splash in praise.  
The forests all rejoice and sing;  
all creation celebrates the day.  
The lame will dance and the blind will see,  
the deaf will hear and the silent speak.  
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed

Victor C. Johnson

Children’s Time Pastor David

Children’s Worship

*Kids up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade may go to Children’s Worship.  
All others stay in the sanctuary.*

Psalm 25 vs. 1-10

Pew Bible Page 502

Cantor: Dianna Dixon

REFRAIN

Hal H. Hopson

God of the cov-e-nant, You are God a - lone.

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Sermon Text

Luke 21:25-36

Pew Bible

Page 85

A reading from the Gospel of Luke  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Edith A. Gause

*ON CONSTANT ALERT*

**Responding to the Word**

\*Hymn 533

“In the Singing”

*Bread Of Peace*

Call to Stewardship

Offertory

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Robert Lau

*Please put your pledge card in the basket that follows the Offering Plate.*

\*Offertory Prayer

Dedication of Pledge Cards (Unison)

**Indwelling Christ, we dedicate these pledges for the work of this congregation. As we fulfill these pledges in the coming year, please be with us as we work together to: be inspired by the Word shared and preached; be thankful for the opportunity to share your Love with neighbors near and far through the mission work of this congregation; enjoy the glorious music sung by choirs and by congregation; listen with openness to the music presented by choir and organist; educate young, middle aged, and older persons in your ways by stories and interpretations of them; and, keep our beautiful building welcoming to all. In Christ by the power of Holy Spirit and the love and grace of God, we offer these pledges to you. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Supper**

Invitation to the Table

The Great Prayer, including pastoral concerns and prayers for the people, ending with 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. Choral Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

*(Bread is taken when served to signify our individual response to Christ’s invitation. The cup is held and all partake together upon the invitation of the pastor to signify our unity in the family of Christ. Gluten free bread is in small cups on each tray.)*

Communion Voluntary

“Veni Emmanuel”

Noel Goemanne