

*Offertory Prayer (Unison)

We rejoice, O God, in the gifts of your Spirit that offer us productive and fulfilling lives. As we exercise our generosity, touch us with new awareness of sisters and brothers you call us to love. May our gifts and prayers lift them and us into true partnership in your service. Amen.

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 97 *Aberystwyth*

“Watchman, Tell Us of The Night”

Women and Girls sing the lines that begin “Watchman”

Men and Boys sing the lines that begin “Traveler”

*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

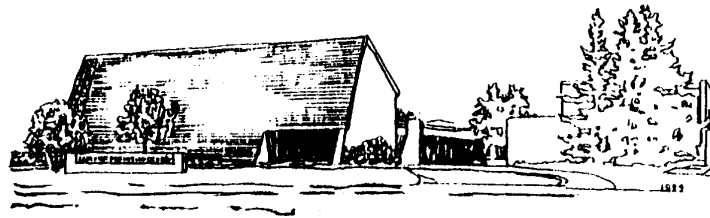
*Closing Choral Response *Prepare the Way*

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

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

*Closing Voluntary *J.S. Bach*

“O Thou of God the Father”



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 **Grace First**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Dr. 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 9, 2018

10:40 A.M.

The Second 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! Let us lift up our voices in song and prayer that we may be refreshed, and our hearts in praise and adoration that we may “walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6:4) as we joyously worship our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. **(Please sign the attendance register, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshipping in their pew.)**

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary arr. Michael Burkhardt
“Oh, Come, Little Children”

Chimes The Entrance of the Bible

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Sue Jones & Sue Masterson

*Hymn 88 *Veni Emmanuel*
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(Verses 1, 2, 7)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Caring God, who wills that none of us should perish, we confess our unreadiness for your rule in our midst. We live fragmented lives with no center value. Greed, ambition, and desire for safety battle within us. We become content with withered grass and fading flowers and neglect your Word, which is forever. Bring a new day to disturb and remake us, that we may be ready to accept your forgiveness. Amen.

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response Hymn 88 *Veni Emmanuel*

**Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Prepare us, O God, to hear your Word, which is forever, as we welcome the Christchild. Ready us to receive salvation and to rejoice in the freedom to give ourselves in service. Equip us for the new heaven and new earth in which we may dwell in holiness and godliness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Music Ministry Bradley Ellingboe
“Then We Shall Sing for Joy”
Sanctuary Choir

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then shall the lame man leap like a hart,
and then we shall sing for joy!

Then shall the waters break forth in the desert,
streams shall flow and the earth be glad.
Then shall the dry land blossom and bloom,
and then we shall sing for joy!

The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing.
Joy everlasting shall be on their heads
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Scripture Reading Pew Bible
Philippians 1:3-11 Page 196

This is a reading from the Letter to the Philippians
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 134 Pew Bible Page 575 Cantor: Dave Young

REFRAIN



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Children’s Music Ministry Linda Coalson Young
“That Magical Night”
(see insert)

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 134 *Antioch*
“Joy to the World”
Children sing verse 1
Congregation please join on verses 2, 3 & 4

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and Lord’s Prayer Choral Amen
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.

Call to Stewardship

All undesignated cash goes to the Compassion Fund.

Offertory arr. Robert Lau
“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

*Doxology Hymn 606 *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.**