

The Advent season gives us four Sundays to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. Christ has already come as a baby born in Bethlehem, but Christ continues to come into our hearts, and heads, and lives. Prepare the way!



Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art.

The First Sunday of Advent
Service for the Lord's Day
December 1, 2019

Gathering Around the Word

Gathering Music

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Robert Lau

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call To Worship

Someday soon-- the mountain of God's House will be The Great Mountain!

Someday-- the nations will flow like a river toward it.

They'll say, "Come, let's go to the House of the God of Jacob."

On that great day—We'll turn swords into shovels, and spears into hoes. No more will nation fight nation; they won't play war anymore.

The family of Jacob will live in the light of God.

Come, let us walk in the divine light.

Isaiah 2:1-5, adapted

Opening Hymn 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTTGART

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Lord of all: we long for you to come again. We long, and hope, and dream.

We know: when you come the world will be made well! When you come all that is undone will be done. We look for the deliverance of all things. You are the light of faith and hope, and you are coming!

We also confess that we are unprepared for this. We are too attached to this age. We are too proud. We are too selfish. We are too afraid—that the end of the age means the end of familiar things. Move us to true repentance. Make us subject to the rule of Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Hymn

*Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

KYRIE

Our Advent confession: We are not ready. Lord, make us ready!

Declaration of Good News

Passing of the Peace

As we greet the Lord, we greet one another in His name.

Lighting the Candle of Waiting and Watching

The Parkerson family

The Advent Wreath

Lighting the Candle of Waiting and Watching

Leader: When Jesus talked about the coming completion of God's purposes, he warned his hearers to watch out. "...Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. Therefore you must be ready."

On this First Sunday of Advent, we light a single candle. It is the candle of watching and waiting.

The congregation remains silent, as the first candle is lighted.

All: The first candle alerts us that a great thing is happening. We wait on the Lord!

Response Hymn 314

Longing for Light
First and Last Verses Only

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading (Responsive)

Isaiah 2:1-5

New Revised Standard Version and a Paraphrase

Isaiah writes at at time when Jerusalem is under siege. But the prophet's message is hopeful.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. **Isaiah, the prophet and poet of God!**

In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. **That will be the day!** Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." **All nations will be welcome! There is a word from God for us all!**

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **Zion and Jerusalem, places threatened now, will become the center of God's instruction.**

He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. **The judgment of God repairs and restores!**

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! **On that coming-day, we'll all live in the light!**

Anthem

When Will the Little King Come?

Ruth Elaine Schram

All Stand

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus will soon be crucified. There is judgement here, and interruption of what is normal. We must watch to see the Lord put things right again.

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Sermon

Looking Forward

Matthew Covington

All Stand

Response Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Affirmation of Faith

A Declaration of Faith, Chapter 10.2

All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, in the church, or in our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. Amen

The vision of hope.

All Sit

The Offering

Offertory

Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God

Marcel Dupre

The Buck in a Basket offering for December goes to the food pantry.

All Stand

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sealing the Word in the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper

Hymn

Sanctus

Joseph Roff

(congregation and choir)

*Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry.*

Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Bless-ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Communion so close to Christmastime can only increase our longing for the Messiah to come.

Communion Solo

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sam Tuggle, baritone Beth Pope, piano

*Come my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife: Such a Life, as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

George Herbert

Prayers of the People 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.

Bearing the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 105

People, Look East

BESANCON

Benediction

Postlude

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Hymnal 106

WELCOME VISITORS! We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.

Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, David Coverdale, Mary Evans, Rob Hale, Matt Hunt, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Nancy Moore, Pamela Napier, David Sears, and David Thomison. **Our church Deacons:** Rider Allen, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Rocky Cooper, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Cathey Green, Jean Harris, Linda Leigh, Tom MacMillin, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Teri Polen, Charlotte Prow, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison, and Debbie Trickey.

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Donate Online:

We have recently set up the church website to accept online donations. Just go to the website below and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code.
<https://bgpresdonate.cloverdonations.com/online-donations/>



The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101
270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Announcements

USHERS: The Simmons, Moore, and Humphrey families

LAY READER: Sandy Franklin

COMMUNION SERVERS: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Georgeanna Capito, Mary Evans, Rob Hale, Matt Hunt, Tim Leigh, Pamela Napier

MEDIA PERSONNEL: Barbara Solberg-Hale and Matt Hunt

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Alisia Mosley and Kimberly Watkins

LIBRARIAN: Arnie Petrus, arfrance@msn.com

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, December 8: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12.

TODAY

DEACONS OF THE WEEK this week will be Rider Allen and Ray Elms. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

FLOWERS AT THE COMMUNION TABLE are given to the glory Of God and are in loving memory of Jerre Nelson Fitts. The flowers are given by her family.

VESPER SERVICE TODAY Join us this afternoon at 4:00 P.M., in the Sanctuary of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green: Advent is coming and the annual vesper for preparation and observance is planned again this year. Many in the past have found the candlelight and appropriate readings and beautiful music to be just the right combination for the spiritual preparation of the season. —Thomas N. Moody, organist.

THE ANGEL TREE IS READY FOR YOU! There are a few more angels! Choose one, purchase the items, wrap and return by Tuesday December 10. Our Youth families will deliver on Saturday December 14. Once again we are partnering with McNeill Elementary to help some of their neediest families have a better holiday, AND also providing some gift cards to the young adults at Uspiritus who are aging out of the foster care program. Your generosity is so much appreciated!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL GUIDES are available in the 10th Ave Lobby. Pick up your copy today and grow your faith as we look to the coming of Christ at Christmas! Many thanks to Diane Simmons for putting this together for us once again!

CHILDREN'S MUSIC MEETS Sundays at 9:00am. Please make regular attendance a priority. We always welcome new faces and all Kindergarten - 6th grade students welcome.

DID YOU KNOW? Our Sunday School offering has been designated to help Uspiritus (now Centerstone) purchase backpacks and suitcases for the children and youth in their care. Each quarter the CE Ministry will designate a particular non-budget project for the dollars we receive each Sunday. We will collect for Uspiritus through December.

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING? Each Sunday we come together to worship and learn about God. During the Sunday School hour, our children and youth attend class to hear the Bible and learn to apply it to their lives. Parents can follow up and continue learning at home! **Preschoolers** joined our **our Kindergarten - 3rd grade students** learn about Mary's visit to Elizabeth in Luke 1. **4th and 5th Graders** are exploring the prophet Isaiah and the promise of a child in Isaiah 9:2-7. **PLEASE READ** the scripture stories at home and ask your children what they heard. Wonder together what God wants you to know and do because of these stories! If you need a good storybook, ask Leslee or visit our Children's Library-we have a good selection. Especially with younger children, a good Bible storybook is important!

ROOM IN THE INN HAS BEGUN. HELP IS NEEDED IN ALL AREAS EVERY THURSDAY! Sign-up sheets are available in the 10th Ave Lobby - many hands make light work and make a huge difference for our guests. Having a safe and warm place to sleep during the cold winter months is important and this ministry makes a big impact. Help once or often - every volunteer is valued and needed! See David Coverdale or Shannon Dyche for more information.

Calendar

Sunday, December 1

8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Children's Music

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship

4:00 p.m. Vesper Service

5:00 p.m. Youth Group

Monday, December 2

11:00 a.m. Circle 3

5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit

Tuesday, December 3

11:00 a.m. Special Care

6:30 p.m. Deacons / Covingtons

Wednesday, December 4

5:30 p.m. Advent Dinner

6:05 p.m. Advent Worship

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 5

6:00 p.m. Room in the Inn

Friday, December 6

5:00 p.m. Gallery Hop

COMING UP:

COME SHARE LOVE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARADE! This coming Saturday we will be present on the street for the parade and leading up to it, giving away free hot chocolate. This is fun for all ages and a great way to share fellowship with those coming for the parade. Because streets are closed early for the parade, please plan to get here before 8:30am.

CHRISTMAS MARKET HELP! Our second Christmas Market and Brunch is THIS COMING SATURDAY. We still have space for you to help! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094_aa9ab2ca7f49-christmas1 Greeters, floaters, kitchen folk (to sell brunch items) cashiers, church vendors (to sell donated items) clean up, more. Most shifts are two hours or less. So plenty of time to shop and enjoy brunch also!

GALLERY HOP Please join us at our next Gallery Hop in Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 6th from 5:00-8:00pm. This new exhibit will feature artists from the ArtWorks collective.

CIRCLES CIRCLE 3 will meet on Monday, December 2nd at Village Manor at 11:00am.

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER! We begin this coming Wednesday December 4. Dinner is served at 5:30pm (**RSVP REQUIRED BY NOON TOMORROW**), with worship at 6:05pm. This week's menu is Pulled Pork, Rolls, Macaroni and Cheese, Corn, Cole Slaw, Dessert. \$8 adults, \$5 children/youth, \$20 family maximum (same household).

HELP IS NEEDED ON WEDNESDAYS - SET UP, SERVING, CLEAN UP. We are catering in our food and will need additional hands. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-advent3> to find a time to help.

OTHER NEWS:

SEEKING SOME OF YOUR HANDMADE ITEMS YOU WISH TO DONATE for the Christmas Market. Crochet, knitting, baking, etc all welcome for our table. Funds raised will benefit Living Waters for the World. Bring to the office by Thursday December 5-and help us by suggesting a price.

PLEASE BRING YOUR CASSEROLES BACK for the Market by NOON Friday. Please label as to Vegetable or Sausage and put in the Freezer. THANK YOU for helping us raise money for Living Waters for the World!

CHRISTMAS AND SATURDAY MEALS Each year our church helps to provide a food item for Christmas meal boxes for our community. We are now collecting cans of green peas for our contribution to the Saturday Meals Christmas food boxes. We will need a total of 264 standard (15oz) sized cans, and they may be brought to the church office at any time. Some volunteers will be needed on December 21 and 28 to help with delivery of boxes (21) and meals on the 28. Contact July Clark for details.

T-SHIRTS Margaret Stein will be in the 10th Street lobby selling the remainder of our 200th anniversary t-shirts. Please drop by and pick one up. \$20 per shirt; limited sizes available. Questions? Reach out to Margaret at margaret_f_stein@hotmail.com.

ART EXHIBIT Our current exhibit in Fellowship Hall features the Sunny 16 Camera Club. Please stop by to see this photography show while it is still on display! The exhibit will close on December 5th.

GALLERY HOP Please join us at our next Gallery Hop in Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 6th from 5:00-8:00pm.



We express sympathy to Mame Stone in the death of her husband and church member John B. Stone, who died November 22, 2019.