

ANTICIPATION

Service for the Lord's Day

November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent

Gathering Around the Word

Striking of the Hour

Welcome

Prelude

Pastorale

Louis Lefebure-wely

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call To Worship

from A Declaration of Faith

Leader: O Lord, that you would tear open the heavens and come down!

People: The mountains would quake, and your presence would be like fire laid to brushwood, and the fire makes water boil.

Leader: Thus we would make your name known among those who have turned from you!

People: When your face is hidden, we are delivered into our own hands.

Leader: Be to us now as the hands of a potter. We are your clay.

People: We are all the work of your hand. Tear open the heavens and come down!

Opening Hymn 357

The Days Are Surely Coming
All verses

ELLACOMBE
Hymn Tune No. 197

*The days are surely coming, says God to all the earth,
when you will see my promise: salvation come to birth.
My righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and you will be delivered by my almighty hand.*

*The days are surely coming, says Christ, the promised one,
when you will read my warning in moon and stars and sun.
Though earth and heaven tremble, stand up and do not fear,
for I am your redeemer, and I am drawing near.*

*The days are surely coming when we will know at last
the fullness of God's presence, God's promise, come to pass.
The righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land
and we will be delivered by God's almighty hand.*

Call to Confession

Advent is a season of four Sundays, leading up to Christmas. Let this be a time to make ready for the Lord's presence. Especially in this year of pandemic, we long for the Lord's healing.

This prayer is based
on Isaiah 64:1-9.

Prayer of Confession and Thanksgiving

O Lord, from ages past no one has heard or seen any God but you. You work for those who anticipate your coming, and wait for it. You meet those who do the right gladly. But we have sinned, and made you angry. We have failed to listen, and forgotten to look for you. In our failure and our forgetfulness, we are like fallen leaves blown away by wayward winds. Forgive us, we pray! The potter at her wheel shapes and reshapes clay. Be our potter. Restore us as the work of your hand. Do not be angry forever. Remember: we are all your people!

Silence for Personal Confession

Hymn

KYRIE

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

Declaration of Good News

Response Hymn 100 (Refrain Only) *My Soul Cries Out* TRADITIONAL

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring
Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.
Wipe a-way all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

Passing the Peace of Christ

The risen Lord brought the gift of life-giving peace. Let us share it with one another.

Time With Young Disciples

Hearing the Word

All Sit

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the First Covenant

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Pleading for God to Appear, and that God Should Turn Away from Anger

Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and descend, make the mountains shudder at your presence—
As when a forest catches fire, as when fire makes a pot to boil—
To shock your enemies into facing you, make the nations shake in their boots!
You did terrible things we never expected, descended and made the mountains shudder at your presence. Since before time began no one has ever imagined, no ear heard, no eye seen, a God like you who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who happily do what is right, who keep a good memory of the way you work.
But how angry you've been with us! We've sinned and kept at it so long!
Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved? We're all sin-infected, sin-contaminated. Our best efforts are grease-stained rags.
We dry up like autumn leaves— sin-dried, we're blown off by the wind.
No one prays to you or makes the effort to reach out to you
You've turned away from us, left us to stew in our sins.
Still, GOD, you are our Father. We're the clay and you're our potter: All of us are what you made us.
Don't be too angry with us, O GOD.
Don't keep an account of wrongdoing. Keep in mind, please, we are your people—all of us.

Anthem

The Ashgrove Gloria

Traditional/arr. Malcolm Archer

Isaiah writes to a people devastated by many things. See here Isaiah's honesty and his hope for God's people.

How should we stay ready for the Lord's coming in "power and great glory?" Our Lord tells us to "keep awake."

Advent is
Anticipation.

All Stand

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

Be Ready When the Lord Comes

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

All Sit

Sermon

Anticipation!

Matthew Covington

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn 443

There Is A Redeemer

GREEN

All verses

*There is a redeemer,
Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you O my father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*Jesus my redeemer, name above all names
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
Thank you O my father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

*When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
and there I'll serve my King forever in that Holy Place.
Thank you O my father, for giving us your Son,
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.*

Affirmation of Faith

A Declaration of Faith (Chapter 10)

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle. Amen.

All Sit

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 and Following the Word into the Created World

Closing Hymn 92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

All verses

*While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*With pow'r and glory, come; with pow'r and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

*Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Benediction

Postlude

O God, Look Down from Heaven and Save

Johann Pachelbel

*WELCOME VISITORS! As we worship online, we are glad you are with us!
For more information about our church, pastoral help or for prayer requests,
please email our church office. www.bgpres.org*

Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. Our church Deacons: Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

Donate Online:

The church website accepts online donations. Just go to our website (below) and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code, right.

<https://bgpres.org/give>



The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

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Steve Moore
Cheryl Gregory
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Heather Kirkconnell
Cedric Whitney
Barbara Solberg-Hale
Tim Leigh

Calendar

Sunday, November 29

9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Zoom)
10:30 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Advent Vesper Service

Monday, November 30

5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit (Zoom)

Tuesday, December 1

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
7:00 p.m. Deacons

Wednesday, December 2

7:00 p.m. Advent Meditation

Thursday, December 3

6:00 p.m. DRITI

Announcements

MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Autumn Stolle, DiDi Turley, Sam Tuggle, Ben Johnson

LIBRARIAN: Arnie Petrus, arfranpe@msn.com

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, December 6: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13; 2 Peter 3:8–15a; Mark 1:1–8.

DEACON OF THE WEEK this week is Linda Leigh. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

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

TODAY:

ADVENT VESPER The now-traditional musical vesper service will be presented this afternoon via livestream at 4:00pm, amid the lighting of the first candle on the wreath, scripture, prayer, and organ music. Assisting will be the ensemble that so ably enhances our morning worship. Please join us. (www.bgpres.org)

ADVENT MEANS HOPE! The next few weeks (to Dec. 20) adults will gather by zoom around the lectionary passages. HOPE is our theme and there will be stories, art, videos and small group discussions. [Email Leslee](mailto:Leslee@bgpc.org) for more information. Video will be posted as available for those who miss the morning time.

TODAY OUR CHILDREN learned in Godly Play about the coming birth of Jesus in Luke 1:26-56. The group meets via zoom at 9:00am and is led by Mary Evans.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES (via Zoom). Godly Play meets at 9:00am for our children with Mary Evans. Youth meet with David in the afternoons. Coffee & Conversation meet 9:00am Sundays. Contact Leslee Kirkconnell for information, including zoom links.

ANGEL TREE is up and decorated. We have on-line sign up as well as the ability to pick ornaments off our tree (stop by during the week). Items will be due back December 15. We have simplified things - one ornament = one person, with a value approx. \$50-75 each. With access to the building limited, PLEASE make an effort to choose ornaments - if you need help - call us!

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN HAS BEGUN! Extra precautions are in place to keep everyone safe. Sign ups are in the 10th Ave Lobby or on our website (<https://bgpres.org/serve/davids-room-in-the-inn>). You may call the office to be added as well. For everyone's safety only those who sign up will be allowed in the building. Questions? [Email Rider Allen](#).

COMING UP:

GROW FAITH, STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS, GO DEEPER! Join a small group! We have some beginning, and more planned later. You can contact Tim Leigh, Julia Roberts, or Karen Watson. Other than the walking group (Karen), all are/will be virtual. Once it is safe to be in person, we will have other groups available.

HELP WILL BE NEEDED for Saturday Meals on December 19 and 26. On the 19th we will need about four drivers (that is Christmas Box delivery day) and two drivers and maybe one or two to help prepare meals. Those days are all-church days so each congregation is asked to send some volunteers to spread the work. Contact Judy Clark - judy068clark@outlook.com.

POINSETTIAS Poinsettias will be available for purchase again this Christmas, given either in memory of departed loved ones, or in honor of someone special. A special announcement page with a listing of gifts will be included with the Christmas Eve bulletin. Forms for poinsettia orders will be available in the church office or in the Sunday bulletins. Both should be returned to the church office by Sunday December 20th. Poinsettia orders are \$18.00 each. You may call or email the information to the church office, or print and mail an order form. [Click here for the form](#).

OTHER NEWS:

PEG TRUMAN'S PAINTINGS are presently hanging in the church fellowship hall. Anyone may view them between 8:30am and 4:30pm M-Th, and 8:30am - noon on Friday. At the Tenth Street entrance, ring the doorbell for entry. Wear a mask, and please sign the guestbook. These works will hang until December 13, at which time the works may be purchased in a lottery with a donation to the memorial fund. In addition to what is hanging are a number of prints. Copies of these prints will be available for viewers later after a decision about displaying them is reached.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN:

- Baked and frozen breakfast casseroles (we have freezer space).
- Bleach wipe canisters (disinfecting wipes)
- Big bottles of liquid hand soap refills
- Rags, old Tee-shirts, etc. for wiping down surfaces - we will be making a bleach solution each week, so old ratty items are best as bleach will degrade the fabric.
- Warm sleeping bags (rated to -20) for those nights when a guest can't get in a church (these will be given to the Day Center to distribute).
- Donations may be brought to the office during the week or if you have a Sunday reservation, you can bring then.

WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE Housing Authority, the NAACP coat drive, and DRITI. They are in need of several things, including warm items for children like socks, underwear, and warm jackets. You can send us a donation to purchase or bring items to the church and we will make sure they get where needed. Our Gloves with Love display is up on the fence along 10th Ave. You can clip your donation (please put in securely sealed Ziploc bag) there and it will be collected. We have also asked our neighbors on the 10th Street block to assist with our donation drive. If you know other downtown businesses please reach out to them. All these are being collected: Coats, Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks, Underwear.

In solidarity with the suffering world and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's request that churches temporarily suspend in-person gatherings, the church will continue to encourage virtual worship.

If you or your family feels a need to sit in the church weekdays, we will honor those requests individually.
You may call the church office at 270-843-4707 or email us at info@bgpres.org.