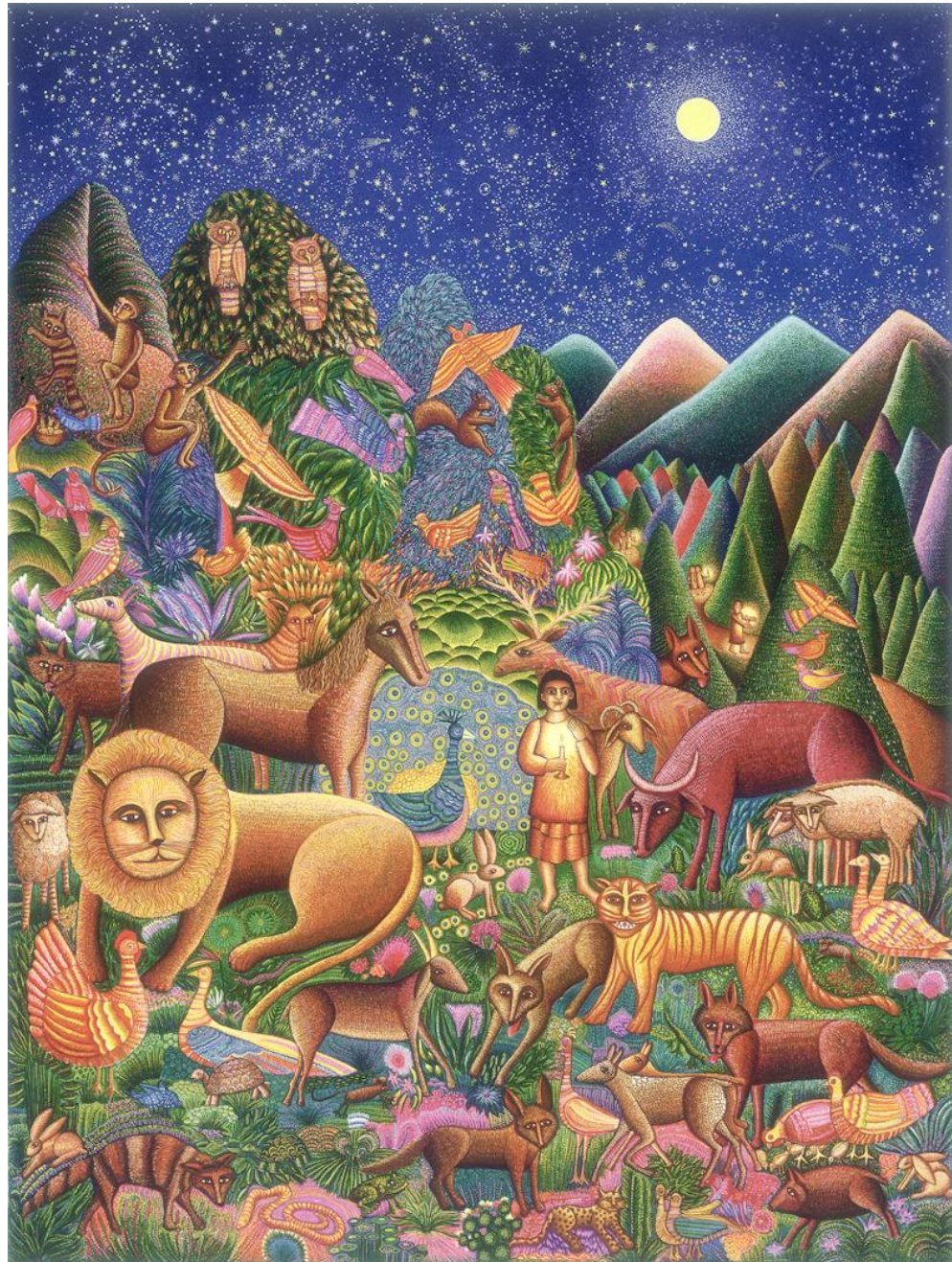




SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 7, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Second Sunday of Advent

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"What Child is This?"

Rasley

PASTOR'S WELCOME

† THE PEACE OF CHRIST

†

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

#92

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Refrain: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. (Refrain)
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)

† CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Is. 9:6)

Leader: God's Spirit is with us.

People: The Lord is here.

Leader: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

All: Let us worship God!

† OPENING PRAYER (from Matt. 1:22-23, Rom. 15:13)

We praise you, Creator God, for you have sent us your Son, Emmanuel, fulfilling your promise made through the prophets. As he draws near to us today, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (from Isa. 11:1-10)

Kevin and Audrey Kirby with their children, Kayla and Kyle

Voice A: Today we light the second candle: the candle of peace. As we wait for the coming of Jesus, we celebrate the vision of peace expressed by the prophet Isaiah, so that we might also see, believe, and work for that peace.

Voice B: Isaiah wrote that a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch will grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, and he will be clothed with righteousness and faithfulness.

Voice C: The wolf and the lamb, the leopard and the kid, and the cow and the bear will live peacefully together. And a little child shall lead them!

Voice D: They will neither hurt nor destroy on God's holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters fill the sea.

All: The kingdom of God has come near! Come, celebrate God's peace!

† HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#88

Verses 1, 2, 7

† CALL TO CONFESSION (from Matt. 3:1-3)

John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord and make God's paths straight." Let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ as we confess our sin together:

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we cannot undo the past, but we can ask for mercy and a new beginning. We confess that we are difficult to live with. We make up our mind and fail to listen to others. When you open pathways to peace, we walk on by, for we fear change and lack courage. We forget - or don't truly believe - that nothing is impossible with you, whether family reconciliation or peace among the nations. Forgive us, we pray. Heal us, and transform our minds and hearts. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding so that we may live as people shaped by the compassion and courage of your Son, the Prince of Peace. We pray this in his name.

† SILENT PRAYER

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from 1 Pet. 2:24)

Leader: The greatest story ever told is that God became a little child who is the Savior of the world. He has borne our sins upon the cross so that, free from sin, we may live a righteous life. Believe the good news, and walk with him on pathways of peace.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

† GLORIA PATRI

#581

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, quiet our restless hearts so that we may draw near to you and hear a fresh word that will challenge us, encourage us, and assure us of your steadfast love. Amen.

SERMON

“A Little Child Shall Lead Them”

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

† HYMN

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

#378

RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE

Offering Music

“Prepare the Way”

Barrett

† Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

#606

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise. (Leader continues.)

The Lord’s Prayer

The Serving

Prayer after Communion

Loving Savior, thank you for the blessing of your grace that we have tasted in this feast. As we prepare to celebrate your birth, give us the radical trust to live each day in the power of your love, so that your will may unfold in our lives.

THE CHURCH MEETS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

† HYMN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

#104

† CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“People, Look East”

French Folk Melody

† All those who are able, please stand.

Worship Assistant: Debbie Mueller

Ushers: Wayne and Cindy Ezell, Dave and Kathy Morrison and John Rose

Deacon Greeter: Betty Wengert

Last Sunday's Attendance: 56

Rev. Sandra Hedrick, Pastor, pastorsandra@oppresby.com

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

1905 Park Avenue, Orange Park, Florida 32073

(904)-264-0536, www.orangeparkpres.org

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CCLI #2196224 and #2196221

OneLicense #A-741799

COMMUNITY CORNER

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to worship at Orange Park Presbyterian Church! There are Connect Cards in the pews for visitor information, communications, and prayer requests (once completed, place in the offering plate). If you would like to talk with Pastor Sandra about becoming a church member, please note that on the card, and she will reach out to answer your questions.

BULLETIN COVER: “Peaceable Kingdom,” by American artist John August Swanson (1938–2021), reflects the vibrant storytelling traditions that shaped his life. The son of a Mexican mother and a Swedish father, Swanson drew deeply from both cultures. His richly colored works often portray biblical stories in a style influenced by Latin American folk art, inviting us into scenes of hope and grace.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A congregational meeting will be held after worship on December 14 for the purpose of (1) hearing the final report of the Pastor Nominating Committee and to elect the church's next full-time installed pastor and (2) electing ruling elders to serve in terms beginning January 1, 2026.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH AND NURSERY: Children’s Church is for ages 4 through 13 and takes place right after the children’s message. Our nursery is open upon request for the younger ones.

ADVENT IS HERE! This Advent we celebrate the season of waiting, watching and longing for God to be born anew in the world and in us. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Matthew calls the child “Emmanuel” which means “God is with us.” We rejoice that God is with us as a tiny baby in the manger, as a presence in our daily lives, and in the fullness of peace and justice still to come. All are invited to share the wonder of this special season in worship and Bible study on the four Sundays in Advent and on Christmas Eve - Quiet Communion at 4 p.m. and Candlelight Service at 5 p.m.

ADVENT STUDY: Join us for our all-church Advent Bible study, “Calling All Angels” a book by Rev. Erin Wathen. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings from November 30 through December 21. Enjoy breakfast snacks at 9 a.m., followed by discussion at 9:15.

LOVE OFFERING FOR CHURCH STAFF: Help us say “thank you” with a year-end love gift to our office, music and maintenance staff members and our preschool director (Pam, Lisa, Sonja, Vernon, Tom, and Amanda). We will need your contribution (designated as such) no later than Sunday, December 14, so that we can bless our staff with these gifts before Christmas. Your generosity is appreciated!

CHOIR PRACTICE: December 10 at 6:30 p.m. (last rehearsal of this year).

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: On December 17 at 9:30 a.m., you are invited to hear the Christmas story told in song through the voices of children.

WOMEN’S RETREAT: A few spots are still open for our 2026 Women’s Retreat on St. Simons Island, where we will explore “Our Sacred Story in God’s Divine Plan” along with relaxation, fellowship and laughter. The retreat will be held on March 13-15 at Epworth by the Sea. The fee is \$300 for a double accommodation (\$50 deposit). Registration forms are available in the narthex, and church office. Questions? Contact Cindy Ezell.