

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Led by Christ, Together in Faith and Love, We Joyfully Think, Question, Grow & Serve!

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025



*for those who wish to stand

Bold print indicates congregational participation

Today's Liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/sanctifiedart.org

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Phil Price

*please sign the act of friendship pad

BREATH PRAYER *Inhale: "The world feels dim,"*
 Exhale: "But glory grows in the dark."

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Family of faith, God is at work!

All: God is healing and creating,

One: redeeming and dreaming,

All: calling and sending,

One: listening and loving.

All: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

One: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

All: May we worship our God who holds onto hope. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

Will Exline Family

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

#93

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: On-the-move God, we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, “Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?” Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Family of faith, in our honesty,

All: we are heard.

One: In our worries,

All: we are held.

One: In our failings,

All: we are forgiven.

One: In our fear,

All: We are not alone.

One: Friends, this is the good news of the gospel!

All: When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

One: Thanks be to God!

All: Amen.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

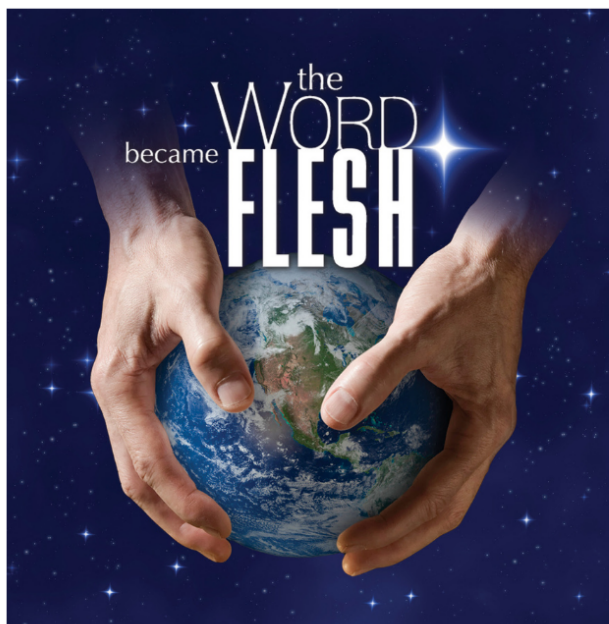
Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end.

Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD



CHORAL CANTATA

NARRATORS:

Trey & Makenzi Cullins

SONG LIST:

This Is My Father's World

The Fall of Man

Kyrie

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The Savior Foretold

Unto Us A Child Is Born

The Angel Gabriel

Gabriel's Message

The Child Is Born

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Good News of Great Joy

Gloria in excelsis Deo

The Word Became Flesh

We Have Seen His Glory

MUSICIANS:

Flute - Kenna Graber

Oboe - Colby Stevens

Clarinet - Alex Meek

Percussion - Daniel Albertson,
Anderson Coffman

French Horn - Richard Bentson,
Merideth Hulett

Trumpet - Frederick Moose, Christine Moose

Trombone - Jayme Hayes, Martha Sanchez

Violins - Denise Blehm, Marta Prugar-James

Viola - Kris Hilding

Cello - Teresa Hernandez

Bass - David James

Soprano - Ruth Cathcart-Rake, Judy Coachman, Kathy Hanson,
Carolyn Wedel, Mary Anne Weiner, Britton Zuccarelli

Alto - Alice Hermann, Ann Knowles, Cyndy Knutson, Sandy Mills,
Maralyn Williams

Tenor - Dale Hanson, Peter Johnston, Justin Klaassen,
Marty Mills, Jon Richards

Bass - Bill Cathcart-Rake, Richard Morrison, Bruce Pearson,
Glen Stovall, Jay Wagner, Mark Wedel

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

To give online, visit <https://www.fpcsalina.org/give>. To give over the phone, text FPCSalina and your dollar amount to 73256 or download our Realm Connect App.



CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY

#606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENT OUT TO BEAR GOD'S WORD IN THE WORLD

*SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

#105 v. 1, 4, & 5

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



The white carnation on the chancel is in memory of Susie Stinson



Chancel Flowers given by Joseph Coachman in memory of his Heart Donor

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS:

Worship Assistant: *Will Exline*

Hospitality Host: *Ann Payne*

Ushers: *The Payne Family*

Weekly Glance

SUNDAY, December 7: 10:00am – Worship, Sanctuary
11:00am – Dedicate Parlor
Pack Weekend Food Bag – Hope Room
11:15am – Adult Ed

Tuesday, December 9: 5:00pm – Fill the Freezer

WEDNESDAY, December 10: Salina Grace meal prep & serve
4:00pm – FBI
6:30pm – Choir Practice

THURSDAY, December 11: 7:00am - HeBrews

SUNDAY, December 14: 9:00 – Adult Ed
10:00am – Worship, Sanctuary
11:15am – Adult Ed
6:00pm – Youth Christmas Party at
Prices

Looking Forward

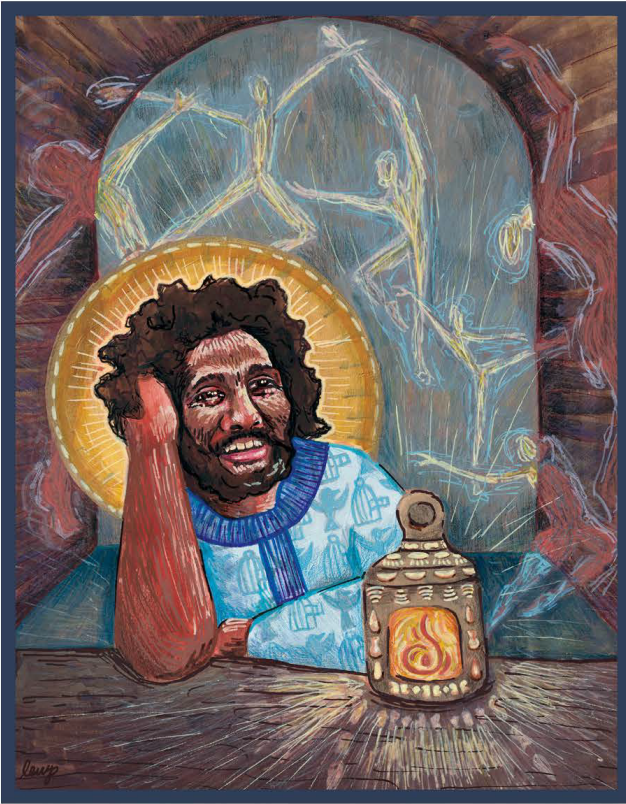


December 14th
Children's
Christmas Pageant!





The Second Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK



Hope Like a Dancer

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 11:1-11

11"x14" Gouache, paint pens, colored pencils, and ink on paper

John the Baptist was thrown in prison after publicly questioning the legality of Herod's marriage (Matthew 14:3-5). He was not afraid to go toe-to-toe with the powerful, and perhaps he expected Jesus' ministry to look more confrontational and politically strategic. In questioning Jesus, I wonder if John sought a particular answer to hang his hope on, that maybe the Messiah would be how he'd imagined him. Maybe Jesus would bust him out of jail and take things straight to Herod, but Jesus offers something else.

In this image, John sits in prison, letting the disciples' testimony settle in. People with hearing, visual, and physical impairments experience new senses and mobility. Those with skin diseases are cleansed.

Those with little material comfort are offered irrepressible hope, and the lungs of the dead are filled with the breath of life. I decided to image this good news through the dancing light of a lantern¹ in John's prison cell. I chose dancing figures because dancing feels like a primal response to the radical healing taking place outside the prison walls. As these six dancers illuminate the cell, I imagine John, even if for a moment, breaking into a bit of laughter at the magnitude of Jesus' ministry. Jesus was quite literally doing the unimaginable. He was removing barriers so that the marginalized were no longer reduced to begging and sitting on mats, shoved to the edges of society. He was not only healing physical ailments; perhaps more importantly, he was restoring people to community.

Out of all the miraculous actions mentioned, the news did not include "release of the captives" (Luke 4:18-19).² With this message, John would know that he was not going to be freed,³ and so, the number of dancers would remain one short of seven.⁴ As we know all too well, God's work isn't completed in Jesus' time. We are still woefully short of realizing the fullness of God's desire for all of creation, and the work is ours to see through. Until then, let us keep our eyes peeled for the glimmers of hope dancing all around us and work toward a day when all can join in that dance of wholeness.

—REV. LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN

- 1 The lantern has very simplified shapes representing each of the miracles (received sight: eyes opening; walking: footprints; cleansed: bowls; hearing: volume symbols; raised: butterflies; good news: jar and anointing oil drops representing the Messiah).
- 2 John's clothing includes open bird cages and birds taking flight, which represent how "release of the captives" is missing in the message he receives from Jesus.
- 3 Bonnie L. Pattison points this out in her commentary on Matthew 11:2-19 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Volume 1*, edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 286.
- 4 The number 7 represents wholeness or completion. This podcast episode provides more information about the symbolic use of the number 7 in the Bible: bibleproject.com/podcast/significance-7/



The Second Sunday of Advent | What do you fear?
WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK



Something in the Water

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by Isaiah 43:19-21

20"x20" Acrylic on canvas

Deutero-Isaiah⁵ addresses a community that had been in exile for a while and had probably resigned themselves to their fate. But the prophet has the temerity to proclaim that God still has something in store and asks if they can “perceive” what it is. That word “perceive” would not let go of me. The Hebrew word can be translated as “know” or even “discern.” Christian churches don’t talk about this often, but one way ancient Israelite communities discerned God’s direction was through divination.

The water imagery in this text is strong and shows up in contrasts (“rivers in the desert” and “waters in the wilderness”). The Holy One is making something out of nothing, providing life-sustaining water to a thirsty nation as God’s “new thing” “springs” forth. It’s also interesting to me that water itself is a tool of divination. To the extent the prophet is inviting the community to “discern” what God is doing, I was reminded of the practice of scrying or “seeing”—looking into a reflective surface like water to get clarity on what Spirit might be saying.

Another translation of “perceive” is “feel.” Here I depict someone placing their hand in the water of God’s provision and direction. Is it God’s hand manipulating the water to send it forth, or is it the hand of someone trying to know/feel/discern the water? A sudden onset of water (like a flood or deluge) can be terrifying, but in this case water is coming to the rescue. What might be scary right now, but is actually coming to save us? How do the waters help us see God and ourselves? By claiming rest, what can we discern in the stillness when we divest from the cycle of fear and turn to the water?

—REV. T. DENISE ANDERSON

⁵ Deutero-Isaiah refers to Isaiah 40-55, which scholars attribute to an anonymous prophet during the Babylonian Exile. It is characterized by themes of hope for the deliverance of the exiled Jewish people.



For Your Information:

- FPC's Nursery, located on the second floor, is available for any child under the age of 6. We also have a playground in the parlor – a space for parents and younger children to be close to the sanctuary during worship.
- **Worship bags** for children of all ages are located in the lobby. When you are finished with the bag, please put it in the basket so that it can be replenished and straightened.
- Extra hymnals, including large print, and Bibles are available in the back of the sanctuary.
- The sanctuary is equipped with a Hearing Loop. Please switch your hearing aid to t-coil to use. *Please see your audiologist to activate your t-coil if you haven't done so yet.* Headsets are also available. **Please sit in center section of Sanctuary.**



Faith Formation Programs:

- **FBI-In-Training** is our Faith Formation program for children age 2 through Pre-K.
- **FBI** (Faithful Bible Investigators) is our Faith Formation program for children in grades K-5.
 - FBI & FBI-In-Training meet every Wednesday during the school year at 3:45 pm.
- **God Squad** is our 6th-8th grade Youth Bible Study that meets every other Wednesday during the school year from 6:30-7:45 pm in the Youth Room or a restaurant.
- **HeBrews** is our 9th-12th grade Youth Bible Study that meets every Thursday during the school year at 7:00 am at Mokas on Crawford. The name is derived from *Hebrews 10:25*.

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: *Every Member of Congregation*
Pastor/ Head of Staff: *Rev. Phil Price*
Administrative Coordinator: *Nicole Olson*
Bookkeeper: *Kathleen Pierson*
Building & Grounds Coordinator: *Steve Fowler*
Week Day Custodian: *Dennis Augustine*
Sunday Custodian: *Regina Miller*

Children's Ministry Director: *Heidi Paquin*
CE Assistant: *Meghan Hessman*
Nursery Caregivers: *Kirsten Lilak & Haley Lindenmuth*
Youth Volunteer Leaders: *Makenzi & Trey Cullins*,
Music Director: *Dr. Richard Koshgarian*
Musician: *Parker Freeland*
Worship A/V Tech: *Jesse Smith*

Notice of Filming: Worship services are filmed and recorded to be included on our Church website, Facebook, YouTube, etc. While most footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. Children during children's sermons may be seen. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

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