

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune—without the words,
And never stops at all,
And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.
I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.
—Emily Dickinson

When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.

PRELUDE Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (from the *Orgelbüchlein*) J. S. Bach
Come, Thou Savior of the Nations

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

(9:00) Mary Boyd and Andrew Boyd

(11:00) Mark and Teresa Palmer, Jake and Lane

CALL TO WORSHIP Jeremiah 33, Psalm 25

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when justice and righteousness will be executed throughout the land.

People: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when my promised one will heal the world with love and mercy.

People: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; all the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness.

***HYMN NO. 1** (blue hymnal) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus *Stuttgart*
(Verses 1-3)

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, the season of Advent reminds us that there is within us a hunger that only you can satisfy. Yet we are such an impatient people. Like the culture around us, we want spiritual fast food, not the nourishing food that comes through perseverance, quiet reflection, service and gratitude. We want immediate blessings rather than undergo the slow transformation of allowing you to reshape our lives. Come to us in our anxiety and fear, that we might come to you with repentant hearts and once again rediscover your grace. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

***KYRIE ELEISON** Healey Willan

(Congregation singing—music is found on the inside cover of the red hymnal)

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

(First part: women; second: men; third: all)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE** Refrain from Hymn No. 116 (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

SCRIPTURE READING I Thessalonians 3:9-13

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (11:00) Ellen Anderson

Children age 4 through 2nd grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

SERMON Rev. Dr. Buran Phillips

“Just give me one thing that I can hold on to
To believe in this living is just a hard way to go”

— *Angel from Montgomery*, John Prine

***HYMN NO. 8** (blue hymnal) Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates *Truro*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison) The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle.

If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

(9:00) Light the Candle Carl Schalk

Light the candle of LOVE today, the Giver of love is here! Welcome the love we live and die for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with love, light up the world around you.

Light the candle of PEACE today, the Giver of peace is here! Welcome the peace we fight and cry for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world around you.

Light the candle of JOY today, the Giver of joy is here! Welcome the joy we crave and pray for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with joy, light up the world around you.

Light the candle of HOPE today, the Giver of hope is come! Welcome the hope we long and wait for, but only Christ can give. Flicker and flame and glow with hope, light up the world around you.

Jaroslav J. Vajda
Veni Emmanuel

(11:00) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the
gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way
that leads on high, And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Latin antiphons, c. 8th and 12th centuries

***AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal) *Tallis' Canon*
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 542 (blue hymnal))

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy
Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (responsive)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Prayer continues)...in certain hope of your advent among us, we sing...

Hymn No. 107 (red hymnal) (11:00) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Verse 1) *Picardy*

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing
earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our
full homage to demand.**

(Prayer continues)...in certain hope of your advent among us, we sing...

Hymn No. 107 (red hymnal) (11:00) Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Verse 2) *Picardy*

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human
vesture, in the body and the blood, He will give to all the faithful His own self for
heavenly food.**

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

*Beginning from the front of the sanctuary, we will come forward by the center aisle, take or tear a
morsel of bread and dip it into the chalice before partaking. We return to the pew by the side aisle.*

MUSIC FOR COMMUNION

(9:00) Tantum ergo Michael Sitton

Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui: Et antiquum documentum Novo cedat
ritui: Praestet fides supplementum Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque Laus et jubilatio. Salus, honor, virtus quoque Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio.

*At the altar humbly bending we adore what Christ has brought. By its new-made grace
transcending all the ancient law had wrought, And by faith now apprehending what the senses
vainly sought.*

*Glory let us give and blessing To the Father and the Son, Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run; Ever too his love confessing Who from both with both is One.*

St. Thomas Aquinas

(11:00) Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 699

J. S. Bach

THE LORD'S PRAYER

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Hymn No. 1 (blue hymnal) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
(Verse 4)

Stuttgart

***POSTLUDE** Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Johann Gottfried Walther

*Indicates standing.

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP here today.

PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK: Cindy Spangler and Buz Johnson

CARE TEAM COORDINATOR: Linda Rutherford

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS AND HEARING DEVICES are available from the ushers.

SERVING TODAY

ACOLYTES (11:00): Ben Hatmaker and Caroline McRae

GREETERS (11:00): Bill and Lisa Oros

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Irene and Bruce Seidner, Lily Seidner and Anna Milam

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

(9:00) Boys' and Girls' Choirs

(11:00) Chancel Choir

SENIOR USHER: Buz Johnson

USHERS:

(9:00) Jeff Bendy and Daniel Berry

(11:00) Bill Beintema, Jane Beintema, Scott Carley, Jerry Carley, Sue Caradine

THE BIRTH CANDLE today is lit in celebration of the birth of Charlotte Van Beke, daughter of Chris and Jill Van Beke. Charlotte has a 2-year-old big sister, Anna.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL collection is **today**. We bring this offering each "First Sunday," as our share in maintaining the Volunteer Ministry Center of Knoxville.

MICHAEL SITTON is Chairman of the Music Department at Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia and a composer of sacred music quickly gaining recognition. In his setting of the ancient text *Tantum ergo*, heard this morning during communion at 9:00, he combines a beautiful and expressive melody with gentle, warm harmonies in the accompaniment. The organ registration used is the wonderfully fluid gamba celeste. The Boys' and Girls' Choirs have enjoyed the challenge of learning Latin pronunciation!

THE CONGREGATION IS CORDIALLY INVITED to a concert of Advent and Christmas music in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, December 9, at 4:00. The Chancel Choir will sing music by Gabriel Fauré, John Gardner, Reginald Jacques, Francis Poulenc, Leo Sowerby, and Philip Stopford, among others. The Brass Choir will play works by Hassler and Vaughan Williams, as well as several carols arranged for the Canadian Brass. Brass and percussion will accompany the Chancel Choir on the Gardner. This concert is being offered as a benefit to raise funds for our sanctuary stained glass window project. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend with no obligation whatsoever to contribute, and a freewill offering will go toward the windows. Following the concert will be a reception in the Schilling Gallery, which will then be followed by the Youth Christmas Drama at 6:00. We hope you'll join us next Sunday afternoon and evening!



PLEASE JOIN US for cider, cookies and donuts in the Schilling Gallery today following both services. This event is sponsored by the Fellowship Ministry Team.

SHOW AND WAMS are becoming angels tonight (more than usual...) and buying Angel Tree gifts at youth group tonight. Bring whatever you would like to spend (we're suggesting \$10-\$20), and we are heading to Walmart to buy gifts and clothes for kids who may not otherwise have anything at Christmas. We'll have one of Betty McKeehan's wonderful dinners, then go shopping! We'll meet at our usual time, 5:00-7:00. See you tonight!

Children's Christmas Drama

Sunday, December 9 – 6:00 p.m.

"Jingle Bells, Batman Smells: P.S. So Does May!"

Don't miss our children's Christmas drama next Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Thirty of our youth and children will be presenting this wonderful story featuring our favorite "1st Grader", Junie B. Jones. Junie is trying to learn to be a giver, but her nemesis May doesn't make it easy! Start this holiday season with a good laugh, and get inspired along the way!!

MUSIC OF THE SEASON: You're cordially invited to a festive program presented by members of the Music Study Club at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 5, in the sanctuary and to a reception afterwards in the Schilling Gallery. Musicians include flutist Joan Whiteside, organist Brenda Goslee, and harpist Linda Stutzenberger, as well as our own Bettie Mason and Margaret Harrison, who will be performing Christmas songs by British composers for voice and piano.

DONATIONS TO HEIFER INTERNATIONAL may be made throughout December. Gift cards are available in the church office.

FISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are available for purchase in the church office. For just \$5 or any multiple of \$5, you can send holiday wishes and feed hungry families. Every \$5 donation feeds a family of four for 3 days.

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH will meet at 11:30 on December 20 at Sullivan’s in Rocky Hill. Please call Georgann Byerley if you plan to join the group.

FOYER GROUPS shuffle in December to prepare new groups to convene in January. Please check your next *Abbey* for details, and contact Sue Murrian for more information or to join a group or to drop out of the January rotation.

Adult Sunday School

Advent Through the Eyes of John the Baptist

Fellowship Hall

Today we will continue our Advent series by looking at Advent through the eyes of John the Baptist. Tim Crais will lead the class and Ibbie Muntz will provide the music for our Advent hymns.

Next Sunday we will look at Advent through the eyes of Mary. “On the whole Protestants have chosen to ignore Mary. However, in recent years Protestant scholars have encouraged us to take a closer look at this astonishing young woman.” So, we will do just that as we look at “the annunciation of Jesus’ birth to a small-town girl” and what that “tells us about God’s desires for the world.” Come join us as Ibbie Muntz leads the class and plays the music for our Advent hymns.

NOOMA

McKinnon Room

Is anger the issue, or is the real problem what you get angry about? We all get angry about things from time to time – some of us more often than others. For some of us, it feels like we’re constantly on the brink of losing it, where it doesn’t take much to get angry about anything. And this kind of anger can be seen everywhere we go – at work, in traffic, at the store, at home. But what is really at its root? Anger is often looked at as a bad thing, but are there things actually worth getting angry about? Maybe if we had a better understanding of our anger and where it comes from, we could learn how to channel it toward something constructive – something that’s bigger than ourselves.



THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be collected through Sunday, December 30.

Fifty percent of this offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. The other fifty percent of the offering helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please see today’s bulletin insert for more information.

Mark Your Calendar for These December Events

Sunday, December 2		Cider and cookies hosted by the Fellowship Ministry team, following both worship services
	5:00 p.m.	SHOW and WAMS Angel Tree shopping
Sunday, December 9	4:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Concert in Sanctuary
	5:00 p.m.	Advent Reception in Schilling Gallery
	6:00 p.m.	Children’s Christmas Play
Tuesday, December 11	7:00 p.m.	Centre College Choir at West Emory Presbyterian
Wednesday, December 12	5:45 p.m.	Christmas Craft Night and Potluck Dinner, with music by West Knox Youth Jazz Band
Saturday, December 15	10:00 a.m.	Salvation Army Bell Ringing at West Town Mall
Sunday, December 16	5:00 p.m.	SHOW and WAMS Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 23	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Breakfast
Monday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship

DONATIONS are being accepted for the Advent floral decorations. There is no set amount for each dedication. A list of donations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins as well as the *Abbey* edition of December 19th. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the office.



I would like to contribute to the Flower Guild for Advent:

\$ _____

In memory/honor (circle one) of:

Given by:
