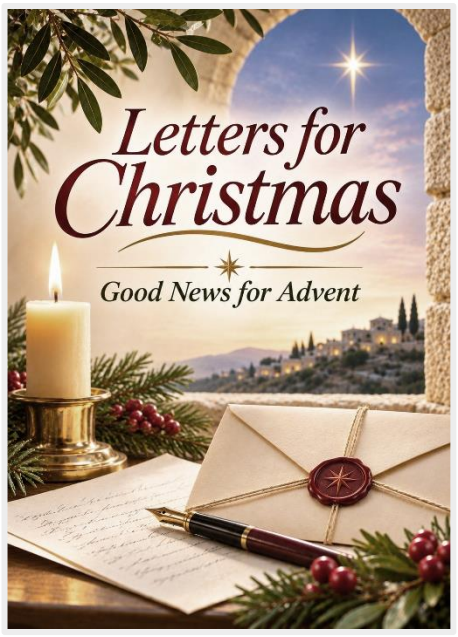
Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Order of Service for the Worship of God

November 29, 2026 10:00 am



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Please join us in singing the Gathering Songs to prepare our hearts for worship.

The Gathering

Star-Child
Star-Child earth-Child go-between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
Hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Women:
Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
Sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Men:
Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,
Wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

All:
Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
Down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1) Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door
and lives now inside us forever.

2) To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing;
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving-kindness.
The thunder of his anthems rolls
to shatter all hatred and violence.

3) In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

4) Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude
"Do You Hear What I Hear?"
"Good Christian Men Rejoice" LPC Belles

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Chuck and Sandra Hedrick

Leader: Advent begins in the dark, and it begins with a demand. O that you would tear open the heavens and come down!

First candle is lit.

People: We light this candle as a sign of hope.

Leader: Hope is not the same as optimism. Optimism expects things to improve. Hope keeps watch when there is no evidence yet and refuses to go to sleep.

People: We are the clay. You are the potter. We are the work of your hand.
Leader: Keep awake, Jesus said, because you do not know when the owner of the house will come.

People: Come, O God, we are waiting. We are awake.

Prayer
God of the torn-open heavens: we are tired of waiting for a world that has not arrived yet. Do not let our tiredness become resignation. As this candle burns through the longest weeks of the year, keep us watchful, keep us restless, and keep us hopeful- not because things are fine, but because you are not finished. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise**
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(1st, 5th, and 6th stanzas)

1 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.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

***Unison Prayer of Confession** Marci Edwards

Holy God, like the ancient Israelites, we cry out and long for you to tear open the heavens and come down to us. We want to be rescued and an end to suffering and injustice, but we admit that we have a hard time waiting and an even harder time waiting well. When waiting is hard, we grow complacent in our commitment to you. We get wrapped up in meaningless distractions. We get discouraged and lose our sense of hope. Forgive us. Help us wait well as we look to you, live in love, and share our hope. This is what we desire. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***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, amen

THE ACT OF OFFERING

Offertory
"Every Valley" John Ness Beck

LPC Chancel Choir

***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 Dedication**

Children's Time Brian Mitchell

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of the Child

Today Maverick Brooks Barr, son of David and Simone Barr will be presented for baptism. Zach and Sarah Cooke join the family as Maverick's sponsors.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Baptism

Prayer and Welcome

Hymn
Baptized in Water
1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.

2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.

3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED

LPC Troupers Play

Old Testament
Isaiah 64 1-9

New Testament
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Sermon
God Helps us Wait Well Joy Laughridge

RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

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.

***Hymn of Commitment**
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Postlude
"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Arr John Carter?

Duty Elders for November	Katherine Bossuot Greg Scott Connor Balow
Liturgist:	Marci Edwards
Senior Pastor:	Rev. Joy Laughridge
Director of Youth & Christian Education:	Brian Mitchell
Interim Director of Music and Organist	Deborah DeGrado
Parish Associate:	Rev. Vickie Bossuot

Attendance November 22, 2026 In Person: 105; 1st Time: 0; Online: 42

The flowers in the chancel are dedicated by **Saundra Farhat** to the glory of God , and in honor of her children and grandchildren.



November 29, Sunday
10:00 am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 am - Adult Sunday School - Coleman Room

November 30, Monday
4:00 pm – Chair Yoga – Benz Hall

December 1, Tuesday
10:00 AM – PW Coordination Team – Coleman Rm
6:00 PM – CELEBRATE Ministry Meeting – Session Room
6:00 PM – SERVE Ministry Meeting – Linda Allen's Home
7:00 PM – CARE Member Ministry Meeting – Benz Hall
7:00 PM – LEARN Ministry Meeting – Zoom

December 2, Wednesday
1:15 PM – Bell Choir – Sanctuary
5:00 PM – Praise Band – Sanctuary
6:00 PM –Wednesday Night Dinner– Travel the Camino de Santiago with Paster Joy – Benz Hall
7:00 PM – Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

December 4, Friday
10:00 am – Vintage Players - Youth Hut
6:00 pm – Women in Recovery – Youth Hut

December 5, Saturday
9:00 AM – LPC Men's Breakfasts – Coleman Room
5:30 PM – Meet at Church for the Lakewood Community Luminary Night and Caroling

December 6, Sunday
10:00 AM – Worship – Communion Sunday - Sanctuary
Ester Goggins' Memorial Servicer
6:00 PM – LPC Youth – Youth Hut

Join the Lakewood Neighborhood Carolers!
Help us spread some Christmas cheer on **Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 PM**. We'll meet at the church at **5:30 PM** and carpool together.
No special singing experience is needed - just bring your holiday spirit!
Contact Jason Ponder to sign up and confirm by Thanksgiving week

Operating Budget as of October 31st, 2026

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income			
Pledged	$ 428,050.00	$ 430,840.00	$ 2,790.00
NonPledged	83,800.00	63,519.00	(20,281.00)
Other Sources	22,490.00	28,197.00	5,707.00
	534,340.00	522,556.00	(11,784.00)
Expenses	$ 536,656.00	$ 520,736.00	$ (15,920.00)
Net Total	$ (2,316.00)	$ 1,820.00	$ 4,136.00

Holiday Turkey Fund!



UCOM Turkey Fund for the Holidays!

Each year, LPC's Outreach Ministry works with UCOM and a local grocery store to help provide **gifts cards** for deserving families in our community. Financial donations can be made through LPC by designating "Turkey Fund" on your check or envelope with your offering. In addition to gift cards, UCOM is seeking **food donations**.

Please donate: Instant mashed potatoes, stuffing, pie crust, cornbread, muffin, or biscuit mix, cans of yam, sweet potatoes, green beans, corn, apple pie filling, and gravy mix. The fund will operate now through December, as we celebrate Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Donations can be dropped off at UCOM, in the baskets in the Narthex, or in the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Walking the Mourner's Path Workshops

Are you seeking comfort and healing after the death of a loved one? The ministry of **Walking the Mourner's Path** seeks to serve individuals who are dealing with grief through a series of eight weekly workshops.Together in these small group gatherings, individuals:

- Acknowledge their pain and brokenness
- Recognize that each journey through grief is unique
- Share stories
- Discover where God is in their grief
- Find Healing and Joy

LPC will offer the eight-week workshops on Thursday nights from **January 21, 2027 through March 11, 2027 from 6:30 pm until 8 pm in the Presbytery building next to the church.**The group will be limited to eight participants. It will be led by trained facilitators and Rev. Joy Laughridge.

If interested, please contact Rev. Laughridge or the church office at **904.733.8055** and someone will get in touch with you to answer any questions or help you register.