



**December 7, 2025**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Waterloo, IA**



## Order of Worship

\*Please stand as you are able

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

### Prelude

*Coventry Carol*  
Celebration Ringers

arr Moklebust

### Welcome and Announcements:

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Week 1:

Advent means coming. While we celebrate Jesus' coming to earth to save us, we also prepare for when he will come again in all his splendor.

**We prepare ourselves for the full coming of God's kingdom in our daily lives and in the world.**

When God will swallow up death permanently.

**The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face, and remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. Indeed, the LORD has announced it!**

At that time they will say, "Look, here is our God!

**We waited for him and he delivered us.**

Here is the LORD! We waited for him.

**Let's rejoice and celebrate his deliverance!"**

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. God calls us to walk in his light.

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

Week 2:

Advent means coming.

**We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.**

While we celebrate Jesus' coming to earth to save us, we also prepare for when he will come again in all his splendor.

**A time when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**When all shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.**

So strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

**Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you."**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
**Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.  
**And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;**  
They shall obtain joy and gladness,  
**And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**  
God calls us to walk in his light.  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**\*HYMN**                    *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*                    #347, Hymnal

**\*INVOCATION (Opening Prayer)**  
**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**  
God wants us to be able to enjoy community with him. but our sins get in the way.  
**However, if we look our sin the same way God does, and confess it -**  
God is faithful to our unfaithfulness and forgives our sin.  
**Therefore, we come confessing the wrong we do and the right we fail to do as we trust in God’s mercy.**                    *—based on I John 1:9*

O God, like sheep we go our own way.  
**We would rather do what pleases us than what pleases you.**  
We take the easy way rather than obeying you.  
**This advent season, convict us when we go our own way.**  
Help us to see ourselves in the light of your love and grace.  
**Guide us as we seek to be like you in everything we do.**  
Grant us the courage to follow you and to stand together with you in the light.  
**Give us the determination to be witnesses to Jesus Christ in our city, our region and the whole world.**

Hear the good news. God comes to us to save us and forgive us. In Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Response to Grace**                    *“Speak O Lord”*                    *Insert, vs 1 Only*  
**Speak, O Lord, as we come to You To receive the food of Your holy Word**  
**Take Your truth, plant it deep in us, Shape and fashion us in Your likeness**  
**That the light of Christ might be seen today - In our acts of love and our deeds of faith**  
**Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us All Your purposes for Your glory.**

**Choir Anthem**                    *Love Came Down at Christmas*                    Rossetti

**Scripture Reading:    Isaiah 40:3-6**  
A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**Malachi 3:1-3**  
I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.  
But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness . . . .

**Luke 3:1-18**  
In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan River, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one shouting in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be brought low, and the crooked will be made straight, and the rough ways will be made smooth, and all humanity will see the salvation of God.'"

So John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruit that proves your repentance, and don't begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that God can raise up children for Abraham from these stones! Even now the ax is laid at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

So the crowds were asking him, "What then should we do?"

John answered them, "The person who has two tunics must share with the person who has none, and the person who has food must do likewise."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

He told them, "Collect no more than you are required to."

Then some soldiers also asked him, "And as for us— what should we do?"

He told them, "Take money from no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your pay."

While the people were filled with anticipation and they all wondered whether perhaps John could be the Christ, John answered them all, "I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I am is coming— I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clean out his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with inextinguishable fire."

And in this way, with many other exhortations, John proclaimed good news to the people.

Sermon	<i>“Proclaiming Good News”</i>	Rev. Tim Dyck
--------	--------------------------------	---------------

*Song of Response	<i>“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”</i>	#82, Hymnal
-------------------	---	-------------

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer	pg. 35, Hymnal	
---	----------------	--

**Presentation of Our Offerings**  
In this time when we rejoice that God reaches down to save us, we also anticipate the time of his coming to rule and reign over all the earth. As citizens of his kingdom, we joyfully present ourselves and our offerings to the one true God and king to further his plan and purposes in the world and in us.

Offertory	<i>Christmas Carol from Anjou</i>	Franck
-----------	-----------------------------------	--------

*Doxology	<i>“O Lord, You Are My God and King”</i>	#270, Hymnal vs. 3 only
-----------	--	-------------------------

**3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your mighty acts will show,  
Till all the peoples of the earth your kingdom, power, glory know.  
Eternal is your kingdom, Lord, forever strong, forever sure;  
While generations rise and die, your high dominion will endure.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**  
**O Lord, with gladness and appreciation for your blessings, we present our offerings so that the work of this congregation which you have called together may persevere. May we always bear witness to your majesty and authority as we continue to serve you. Amen.**

*Song of Sending	<i>“Savior of the Nations, Come”</i>	#102, Hymnal
------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------

**\*Charge and Benediction**

*(Cf. Luke 2:14, 1:74,75,78,79)*

Glory to God in the highest

**And on earth, peace to all people.**

Because of our God's tender mercy

**The dawn has broken upon us from on high**

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**And to guide our feet into the way of peace**

That we, being rescued, may serve him without fear,

**In holiness and righteousness before him for as long as we live. Amen.**

*Make a secure donation online  
using your phone's camera  
to scan this QR code*



**Postlude**

*Emmanuel Comes*

arr. Hayes

*The lectionary reader today is Jared Holt*

*Mattie Dooley and Nick Perry will be lighting the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Candle today*

*Jared Holt and Jose Pardo Vargas will be lighting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Candle today*

**First Church Staff**

Rev. Tim Dyck, Pastor and Head of Staff

Gabe Wagner, Sanctuary Choir Director

Linda Wiles, Organist/Pianist; Handbell Choir Director

Amber Gilles, Office Manager & Streaming Service Operator

*Church Office Hours: Mon-Thu 9:00am to 4:00pm; Closed Fridays*

*info@firstpreswaterloo.org*

*www.firstpreswaterloo.org*