

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on First Sunday in Advent**

*November 28, 2021*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Now Thank We All Our God* - arranged by Faye Lopez

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Count Your Blessings* - arranged by Faye Lopez

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The world says,	<b>“All is lost.”</b>
God says,	<b>“All is loved.”</b>
The darkness says,	<b>“The light is dying.”</b>
The light says,	<b>“The fire is catching.”</b>
Fear says,	<b>“Cover your eyes and your ears.”</b>
Hope says,	<b>“Wait, watch, and listen.”</b>

As we light our first Advent candle, we pray for holy hope of God.

**Come now, O Child of Mary.  
Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

**Advent Prayer**

**We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

**Introit:** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah G2G85 v. 1*

**Call to Worship**

When will God’s promise be fulfilled?

**The days are surely coming.**

When we will be saved?

**The days are surely coming.**

How will we know the signs to take place?

**The days are surely coming when a branch from David shall come forth to execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

What shall it be called?

**The Lord is our righteousness.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #82** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (please stand)

### **Call to Confession**

In this season so many voices wish to claim our attention, our time, and our dollars.  
At this font one Voice claims our whole lives:  
soul, body, heart, and mind.

**In humility let us confess our faults  
to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.  
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.  
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.  
We are numb to inconvenient truths.  
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.  
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.  
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.  
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.  
Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you,  
the Son of Man, in whose name we pray.**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

As sure as the fig tree blossoms,  
so sure is the salvation of God,  
poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Believe the good news.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Gloria #581:** *Glory Be to the Father*

**Anthem**

**Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.**

**Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)**

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Receive these prayers and those of our heart, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

**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: #88** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1, 3, 7*

**Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray:

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show: and teach us in her ways to go. Amen.**

**Psalm 25:1-10 Responsive Reading**

To you O Lord, I offer my prayer:

**in you, my God I trust. Save me from the shame of defeat:  
don't let my enemies gloat over me.**

Defeat does not come to those who trust in you, but to those who are quick to rebel against you.

**Teach me your ways, O Lord; make them known to me.**

**Teach me to live according to your truth for you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you.**

Remember, O Lord, your kindness and constant love which you have shown from long ago.

**Forgive the sins and errors of my youth. In your constant love and goodness, remember me, Lord.**

Because the Lord is righteous and good, he teaches the path they should follow.

**He leads the humble in the right way and teaches them his will. With faithfulness and love he leads all who keep his covenant and obey his commands.**

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 21: 25 – 36

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** “A Time of Reflection” based on: John 3:16-21 Rev. Bob Morrison

**Affirmation of Faith for the Season of Advent** (please stand)

**We believe in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**

**And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.**

**Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen. (Philippians 2:5-11)**

**Sending Hymn#106** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* (remain standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing)

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord.**

**Postlude:** *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship* - John Purifoy (please be seated)

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis and the Chancel Choir. Worship led by Eleanor Van Horn and sermon provided by Rev. Bob Morrison.*

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