

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for First Sunday of Advent**

Dec. 1, 2024

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude:

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

The world says: **All is lost.**

God says: **All is loved.**

The dark says: **The fire is catching.**

Fear says: **Cover your eyes and your ears.**

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 Peace.**

Advent Candle Song #103: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace.*

Call to Worship

The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.

Teach us your paths as we wait on your coming promise.

The heavens are speaking; your kingdom is arriving.

Strengthen our hearts as we wait on your coming promise.

The world is turning; new life is appearing.

Keep us alert as we wait on your coming promise.

We worship you with waiting hearts this day.

Fill us with hope in this season. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

God of darkness, in these days marked by cold air and growing night, gather us in your secret place of waiting. Remind us that the dark is not empty. Show us where new life is being formed. Reveal to us the fertile grounds of our waiting, that we might bear witness to your incarnation among us, both now and in the days to come. Amen.

Opening Hymn #88: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (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. Amen.

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.

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: *Gloria Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High*

Anthem: *Come to Us Emmanuel* Carmen Scialla

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list

Prayers of the People

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God with us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord in your mercy. **Receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

(please stand)

Doxology #606: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication:

Blessed are you, Maker of all things. As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn #357: *The Days are Surely Coming vs. 1, 2* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone. Let the heavenly food of the scripture we are about to hear nourish us today in the ways of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14 – 16

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9 - 13

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:25 - 36

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

Sermon *God Wins* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn #91: *Come, Come Emmanuel* (seated)

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God who brings us together.

We give thanks and praise to the One who welcomes us to the table.

...Therefore in thanksgiving, we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir, singing:

**Holy, holy, holy one, God of justice and love,
heaven and earth are full of your wonder.
The incarnate Christ is arriving among us.**

... Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Let us 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.

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.
Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.
Come to me and never be hungry;
believe in me and never thirst.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life. You bring our longings to birth and send prophets to awaken us to your advent among us. Remind us today that your love feeds us and your life strengthens us. Commission us now to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, to love as we have been loved, and to live as the church that Christ dreamed of. Thanks be to God. Amen

Sending Hymn #360: *Christ is Coming*

Benediction

Go in Peace, Live in Love, **Serve the Lord.**

Postlude:

Scriptures are read from the NRSVue translation. Music presented by the Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis. Worship led by Melba Read and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball. Portions of the service reprinted by permission of Presbyterian Press from Call to Worship®. Copyright 2024, and Sundays and Seasons 2025, Augsburg Fortress Press, Copyright 2024.