

SUN
December 1
2024

Welcome TO WORSHIP



**First Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens**



Second
PRESBYTERIAN LITTLE ROCK

The Congregation will speak aloud the **bold print readings**.

† *Please rise in body or spirit*

GATHERING

*Worship begins with God. God takes the initiative and calls the Church into being.
In the name of Christ, we heed God's call and gather as the community of faith.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Echo Noël

L. Daquin

† CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

We gather in preparation

for good news to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation

for joy is in our midst.

We gather in celebration

for we are a people who have walked in darkness and we have seen a great light.

† HYMN 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel – Verse 1

VENI EMMANUEL

† LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The congregation is invited to participate in the motions presented by the readers.

As each candle is lit, we respond together what is written in bold.

Advent means coming... we light the candle of Hope. *(Candle is lit.)*

Hope is like a light shining in the darkness. As we look at this light we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. Thank you God, for the hope you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with each other. We ask in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

† HYMN 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

Surely God is our salvation.

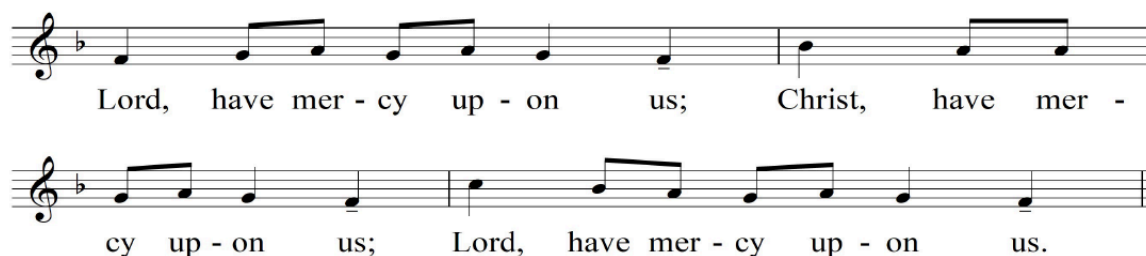
Have faith, and do not be afraid.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

God of the future, you are coming soon, and we are in preparation mode.
You are coming to remind everyone that you are Lord.
But we are busy and focused on what we need right now.
So we aren't always paying attention and may be a bit distracted.
Channel our tunnel vision toward your vision that the world may be one.
Uproot our desire to be in control, and let your will dictate our lives.
Dismiss our need to do it all, and let us see how you bring us all together.
Lord, you are coming soon to remind us that you are Lord.
Quiet our anxious hearts and still our worried minds so we can rest in that truth.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer -
cy up - on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PASSING OF THE PEACE *(Responsive)*

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom.
The people of God will return with joy and singing.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us greet one another with the sign of Christ's peace.

*You are invited to stand and greet one another with a handshake,
fist-bump, hug, or wave — all of which remind us that Christ's peace is for each of us.*

WORD

Gathered in God's name, we now open ourselves to God's life-giving Word.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Doug Barr

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 25:1-10

OT p. 502

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy
SPC Adult Choir

R. Jacques

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21: 25-36

NT pp. 85-6

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

This Story Will Change Everything

Rev. Ben Kane

Following the sermon, there will be a time for meditation to consider what God might be saying to you after hearing God's word read and proclaimed.

EUCHARIST

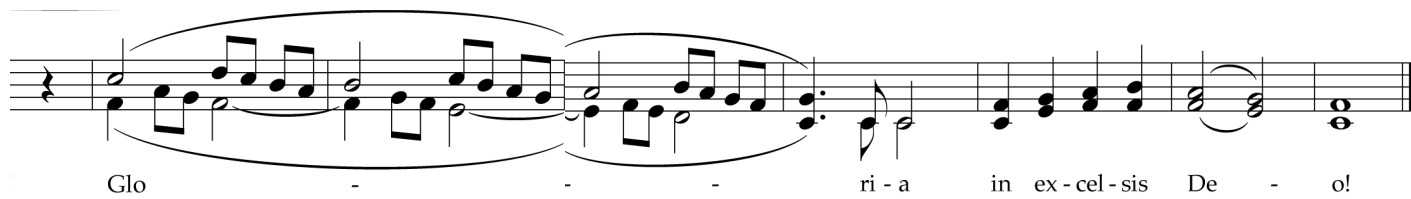
The proclamation of God's Word invites responses of faith.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Let us celebrate the first Sunday of Advent by bringing symbols to remind us of God's goodness and love in the coming of Jesus Christ and remember that even now God is with us.

SUNG RESPONSE (CANTOR)

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!



HANGING THE WREATH

PLACING THE POINSETTIAS

SUNG RESPONSE (CONGREGATION)

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

HANGING THE GARLANDS

DECORATING THE CHRISMON

SUNG RESPONSE (CONGREGATION)

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

SETTING THE OUTREACH TREES

TURNING ON THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

SUNG RESPONSE (CONGREGATION)

Refrain: Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

If you are a visitor, we welcome you to join us at the table as this is an open table where all are welcome. We invite you to follow the example of others as to when to come forward, receive communion, and how to return to your pew.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION 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.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

Our response to God's love and grace is one of gratitude for what is and hope for what will be. In this time of Offering, our gratitude is a tangible response back to God with our gifts and resources. We invite you to give generously to the Second Pres offering as it helps us do the ministries God's called us to enact.

OFFERTORY

E'en So Lord Jesus Quickly Come

P. Manz

✠ DOXOLOGY

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

OLD HUNDREDTH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

The God who calls us together in worship now sends us out in service.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The Pastors and Session of Second Pres invite anyone interested in knowing more about this church, especially those interested in becoming members of Second Pres, to come forward after the Benediction to learn more about this community of faith, and, if ready, to join the church.

✠ HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ CHORAL BENEDICTION

Threefold Amen

Traditional

✠ POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach

A Ministry Only Christ Could Build

Our 2025 Stewardship Appeal continues, and we are grateful to God for all those who've pledged and invite those who haven't yet to prayerfully consider completing an Estimate of Giving card. Don't forget to include your decade for the *Decades Challenge*! We'll celebrate the decade with the most participation with a special gift at The Hanging of the Greens (HOG) breakfast on December 1. Currently the 70s are in the lead, but it is any decades' game to win! You can use the QR code to make your 2025 Estimate of Giving, or go to the church website.



Advent Preaching Series December 1-29

Claiming A New Story in Advent: How God Reorients Our Lives

God's Advent and Christmas stories reorient our lives around the truth that God wishes to be with us and to save us. The scriptures for Advent and Christmas will reveal how God prepares God's people to reorient their lives to welcome a child that will further reorient our lives. Our call this Advent and Christmas Season is to claim a different story and we've got a preaching series that will offer guidance on how best to claim God's story – but beware, it'll completely change your life!

Dec. 1: Luke 21: 25-36 *This Story Will Change Everything* – Rev. Ben

Dec. 8: Luke 3:1-6 *The Localness of God's Transformative Story* – Rev. Ben

Dec. 15: Luke 3:7-18 *Pointing to the Author of Our Story* (Big Music Sunday) – Rev. Ben

Dec. 22: Luke 1: 39-56 *Why? The Question of Advent* – Children & Doug Barr Leading

Dec. 24: Luke 2:1-20 *Expectations Meet Reality* – Rev. Ben

Dec. 29: Luke 2:41-52 *They All Grow Up, Even Jesus* – Rev. Alisa

Ways to Get Involved

Sunday School and Fall Programming

All Sunday School classes meet at 9:45 a.m. To access the Fall Brochure with all class options and descriptions, scan the QR code or check out the link at secondpreslr.org.



All Hands Say Hello: Usher and Greeter Sign Up

We all have hands. Hands can wave. Hands can shake other hands. Hands can hand out bulletins...or pass offering plates, making for a hospitable worship experience for all. *All Hands Say Hello!* Use the QR code for the Usher and Greeter Sign Up!



Big Music Sunday December 15

A favorite Advent tradition at Second Presbyterian Church is *Big Music Sunday*. On Sunday morning, December 15, our sanctuary will be filled with the joyous music of the season. Alexandra Rose Vigil will be our featured harp soloist, and will also accompany various ensembles and soloists from the Adult and Youth choirs. Blythe Keating, soprano, and Lila Cross, mezzo soprano, will offer solos and duets from Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. The Jubilant Ringers will present a special Christmas program beginning at 8:20am and 10:50am, preceding our traditional worship services and of course, we will hear amazing organ music from Adam Savacool. Please come be part of this special worship experience that will help us all prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

Second Spotlight

Introducing Second Spotlight—our new announcement sheet at Second Presbyterian! It highlights key upcoming events and activities to keep you informed. Pick up a copy in the narthex or at the back of the sanctuary, or scan the QR code for the digital version!



Hanging of the Greens

December 1

Welcome Advent with a festive breakfast, decorating the church, and communion worship.

**Breakfast at 9:00 a.m.
Decorating the Church at 9:45 a.m.
Single Worship Service 11:00 a.m.**

Please register for breakfast
\$10 per adult
\$5 for kids over 3



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A SERVICE FOR HOPE AND HEALING

December 18

6:00 p.m.
Chapel

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias are used to decorate the Sanctuary and Second Hall during Advent. You are invited to place a poinsettia in honor and/or memory of a loved one. Funds received in excess of those purchased will be used in benevolent ways to help others during the holidays. A list of those being honored and remembered and their donors will be printed as a special insert in the Christmas Eve bulletin. The deadline to order a poinsettia is Monday, December 16. The cost is \$15.00. You may either fill out the form below and return to the church office, fill out the form online at www.secondpreslr.org or use the QR Code.

I/We would like to purchase _____ poinsettia(s).
Enclosed is a check for \$_____.



PLEASE PRINT

In memory of

In honor of

Name(s) of donor(s)

Statement of Welcome & Inclusiveness

As one part of the church of Jesus Christ, we are inspired and guided by Christ's vision of God's realm—one that includes all who seek to love God and neighbor. Second Presbyterian Church welcomes all people.

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we invite those who respond in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ to become part of the membership and ministry of the church. We would be pleased to have you join us in our journey of faith, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or family status, ethnic background, mental or physical abilities.

Giving to Second Pres

Your generosity is a meaningful expression of your faith in God and your commitment to Christ's work in the world. Contributions can be made to the Annual Budget, Memorial Gifts and the Birthday Fund.



OFFERING PLATE

You may place your offering in the offering plate



BY MAIL

Church Office, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive
Little Rock, AR 72227



ONLINE

Scan the QR Code or visit secondpreslr.org/give

Calendar for the Week

SUN DEC 1

Hanging of the Greens

- 9:00am Breakfast GH
- 9:45am Decorating the church
- 11:00am Worship
- 4:30pm Middle School SPY
- 6:00pm High School SPY
- 6:00pm SPY Dinner

MON DEC 2

- 9:30am 1st & 3rd Monday Morning Bible Study
- 1:30pm Pastoral Care
- 4:30pm Personnel Committee
- 6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting YB
- 7:00pm Boy Scout Meeting YB
- 7:00pm Volleyball

TUES DEC 3

- 7:00am Men's Group Ministry SH
- 9:00am Staff Meeting
- 5:00pm Pastoral Care Ministry
- 5:30pm Adult Education Ministry
- 5:30pm Property Ministry
- 7:00pm Outreach Ministry

WED DEC 4

- 8:30am Stewardship Team
- 5:15pm Junior Artist Ministry (JAM)
- 5:15pm Drinks & Discipleship *offsite*
- 5:30pm MS Girls Bible Study
- 6:45pm Adult Choir
- 7:00pm Belonging Ministry

SAT DEC 7

- 11:30am Merry Widows *offsite*

SUN DEC 8

- 8:30 & 11:00am Worship
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 4:30pm Middle School SPY
- 6:00pm High School SPY
- 6:00pm SPY Dinner

December Usher Captains

- 12/1 (11:00) Zachary Ward
- 12/8 (8:30) David Eifling (11:00) Ken Cook
- 12/15 (8:30) Dan Voth (11:00) Judy Johnson
- 12/22 (8:30) David Eifling (11:00) Judy Johnson

Worship Leaders

- Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane
- Rev. Elizabeth Cahoon
- Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music
- Doug Barr, Director of Children and Families Ministry
- Adam Savacool, organist
- Clint Brockway, interpreter
- Liturgist: Beth Sigler
- Communion Servers: Jean Kohler, Elaine Eubank, Alfred Williams, Cathy Crass, Nancy Hamlin, Carol Young, Cotten Cunningham, Johanna Miller Lewis
- Elder of the Day: (11:00) Vernon Markham

New to Second Pres?

If you are a guest, we are grateful you have joined us in worship and we hope you are well taken care of and feel at home. Feel free to stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex or say hello to a staff member or greeter. Check out the bulletin insert and *Second Spotlight* for more on Second Pres and things that may be of interest to you. We're glad you're here.