

SUN
December 8
2024

Welcome TO WORSHIP



**Claiming A New
Story in Advent:**

HOW GOD REORIENTS OUR LIVES

Second Sunday of Advent



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

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J.S. Bach

† CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel

for God has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.

God has raised up a mighty savior for us

in the house of his servant David.

Thus God has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors

and has remembered God's holy covenant. *(Luke 1:68-72)*

Let us worship God.

Let us worship God indeed.

† HYMN 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Verse 2- Cantor

Refrain - Congregation

† 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.

As we look at this light, we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Hope is like a light shining in the darkness.

Peace is one of the things that we hope for...we light the candle of peace.

As we look at this light, we celebrate the peace we have in Jesus Christ.

Peace is like a light shining in the darkness.

Thank you God for the peace 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 peace with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

† HYMN 96

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

CALL TO CONFESSION *(Responsive)*

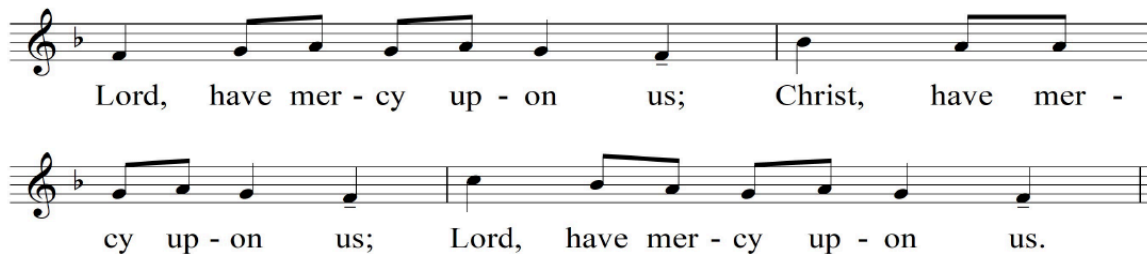
God spoke to our ancestors, reminding them of the covenant
that God would be their God and they would be God's people.
That same covenant continues today as we gather as God's people.
Let us enjoy this covenant by confessing our sins and unburdening ourselves.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

**Lord, long ago you called your servant, John, to prepare a way for Christ.
He spoke of baptism and a cleansing of the soul.
He preached a message of hope built on preparation.
He also reminded your people that they needed to repent and turn to you.
That is what we are doing now.
We are here to unburden ourselves of that which keeps us from you.
We are here to heed John's words and repent.
For that which we've failed to do, we seek forgiveness.
For that which we've overlooked or dismissed, we seek your mercy.
For that which we've derided and degraded, we seek your grace.
Lord, you called John to prepare a way and you call us do the same...**

(Time for silent confession.)

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 Lord shows up again-and-again offering grace and mercy.
We are here to claim God's grace and hear the good news of the gospels.
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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00am)

Rev. Ben Kane

*Emma and Austin Ryall present their daughter, Blakely Rose Ryall
to receive the Sacrament this morning.*

PRESENTATION

THE APOSTLES' CREED *(Unison)*

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

WELCOMING

THE BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Hymn No. 188, St. 1

HEBREW BIBLE READING

Malachi 3:1-4

OT pp. 889-890

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Remember, O Thou Man
SPC Adult Choir

T. Ravenscroft

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

NT p. 60

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Localness of God's Transformative Story

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.

† HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
Verse 1 Choir Only
Verses 2-4 Choir and Congregation

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

E U C H A R I S T

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

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.

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

A Virgin Most Pure
SPC Adult Choir
Amelia Strickland, soprano
Satia Spencer, mezzo soprano

C. Wood

✠ 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 331

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ CHORAL BENEDICTION

Threefold Amen

Traditional

✠ POSTLUDE

Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20

M. Dupré

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

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. You can use the QR code to make your 2025 Estimate of Giving, or go to the church website.



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!



**CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Christmas Joy Offering
December 15, 2024

**BLUE
CHRISTMAS
SERVICE**
A SERVICE FOR HOPE AND HEALING

December 18
6:00 p.m.
Chapel

Celebrate Christmas Eve
AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FAMILY SERVICE 3:30 PM
CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICES
5:30 & 7:30 PM

5:30 PM LIVESTREAMED AT
WWW.SECONDPRESLR.ORG

600 PLEASANT VALLEY DR.
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72227

**Christmas Eve
Special Offering**

Pastors' Discretionary Fund
December 24, 2024





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.

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

Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Benjamin E.E. Kane
Rev. Alisa Secrest
Dr. Bevan Keating, Director of Music
Doug Barr, Director of Children and Families Ministry
Adam Savacool, organist
Clint Brockway, interpreter
Liturgists: (8:30) Ruth Shepherd (11:00) Mike Paulus
Elders of the Day: (8:30) Alicia Byrd
(11:00) Kate Franks

December Usher Captains

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
12/29 (11:00) Judy Johnson

Calendar for the Week

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

MON DEC 9

1:30pm Pastoral Care
3:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00pm Stephen Ministry *offsite*
6:00pm Cub Scout Meeting YB
7:00pm Boy Scout Meeting YB
7:00pm Volleyball

TUES DEC 10

7:00am Men's Group Ministry SH
9:00am Staff Meeting
10:00am Presbyterian Women Social
10:30am PW Christmas Program
1:00pm Preschool Board Meeting
5:30pm Environmental Stewardship Ministry
7:00pm Belonging Ministry

WED DEC 11

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

THUR DEC 12

12:00pm Heritage Committee

FRI DEC 13

3:00pm Our House Cook Team

SAT DEC 14

11:30am Merry Widows *offsite*

SUN DEC 15

Big Music Sunday
8:30 & 11:00am Worship
9:45am Sunday School
9:45am Children's Birthday Party for Jesus
4:30pm Middle School SPY
6:00pm High School SPY
6:00pm SPY Dinner