

# *Advent*



Park Cities  
Presbyterian Church

December 1, 2024

Advent is a paradoxical season: a season of waiting and anticipation in which the waiting itself is strangely rich and fulfilling, a season that looks back at the people who waited in darkness for the coming light of Christ and yet forward to a fuller light still to come and illuminate our darkness. Advent falls in winter, at the end of the year, in the dark and cold, but its focus is on the coming of light and life, when the Ancient of Days becomes a young child and says, 'Behold, I make all things new.' The Latin root of the familiar word 'Advent' is *veni*. It speaks of 'coming', the coming of Christ in every way. —Malcolm Guite

*That the Great Angel-blinding light should shrink  
His blaze, to shine in a poor Shepherd's eye;  
That the unmeasur'd God so low should sinke,  
As Pris'ner in a few poor rags to lye,  
That from His Mother's Breast He milke should drinke,  
Who feeds with Nectar heaven's faire family,  
That a vile Manger His low Bed should prove,  
Who in a Throne of stars Thunders above;*

*That He whom the Sun serves, should faintly peepe  
Through clouds of Infant Flesh! That He the old  
Eternall Word should be a Child, and weepe;  
That He who made the fire, should feare the cold,  
That Heaven's high Majesty His Court should keepe  
In a clay cottage, by each blast control'd;  
That Glories self should serve our Grieffs and feares,  
And free Eternity submit to years,*

*Let our overwhelming wonder be.*

Richard Crashaw  
c. 1613–1649

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 1, 2024  
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

## *First Sunday of Advent*

### \*Call to Worship

The Rev. Mark Davis

Minister: Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

**People: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Minister: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

**People: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain."**

Isaiah 40:1-4

### \*Carol of Adoration and Anticipation

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

*Hymn No. 196 in the Trinity Hymnal*



1. Come, Thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy  
2. Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day-spring from on  
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, He whose glo - ries  
4. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a Child and



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us  
high, ap - pear; come, Thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of Thy  
knew no end; by His life He brings us glad - ness, our Re -  
yet — a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy



find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing  
deem - er, Shepherd, Friend; Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber,  
gra - cious King - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it



hope of all the earth Thou art, dear De - sire of  
news, glad ti - dings of a birth: "Go to Him, your  
born with - in a cat - tle stall; this the e - ver -  
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all suf -



ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

*Please be seated.*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Prophecy Candle: Isaiah 7.14**

Marilyn and Bill Platt 8:00

The Richards Family: Catherine & Trey, Savannah and Caleb 9:30

The Sargent Family: Brittany & John, Callie, John Jr., and Brady 11:00

**Prayer**

**\*Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Tommy Overton

**For thus says the LORD of hosts:  
Yet once more, in a little while,  
I will shake the heavens and the earth  
and the sea and the dry land.  
And I will shake all nations,  
so that the treasures of all nations shall come in,  
and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.**

**Behold, I send My messenger,  
and he will prepare the way before Me.  
And the Lord whom you seek  
will suddenly come to His temple;  
and the Messenger of the covenant  
in whom you delight,  
behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts.**

Haggai 2.6-7, Malachi 3.1

**Musical Preparation for Confession**

9:30/11:00

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *arr. Nelson/McDonald*  
Chris Adkins, *cello* • Stephen Nielson, *piano*

**Public Confession of Sin**

Mr. Overton

**Lord Christ,  
we confess our willingness to be loved  
but also our reluctance to love.  
We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love  
but also our refusal to forgive.  
We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love  
but also our resistance to follow You without question.  
In this Advent time, forgive us our failure  
to respond as we should.  
Come to us anew, and by Your grace, assist us to receive You  
with joy, as the shepherds;  
with gratitude, as Simeon;  
with obedience, as Mary;  
with love, as You have loved us.  
Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

## Private Confession

## Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. Isaiah 9.2

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### \*Hymn of Response “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” Hymn No. 193 in the Trinity Hymnal

PICARDY



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep \_\_\_ si - lence, and with fear and
2. Kings of kings, yet born of \_\_\_ Mar - y, as of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of \_\_\_ heav - en spreads its van-guard
4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly \_\_\_ mind - ed,  
earth He \_\_\_ stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,  
on the \_\_\_ way, as the Light of light de - scend - eth  
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to earth de -  
in the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
from the realms of end - less day: that the pow'rs of hell may  
as with cease-less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly \_\_\_ food.  
van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
lu - - - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

## Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Overton

*In addition to giving via passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at [pcpc.org/give](http://pcpc.org/give) or text "give" to 214-833-7724.*

## Musical Offering

8:00

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”  
Mary Preston, organ

Johann Walther

9:30/11:00

“A Spotless Rose”

16th c. German carol

Chancel Choir

music: Ethan McGrath

Chris Adkins, cello • Stephen Nielson, piano • Nathan Davy, conducting

*A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers’  
foreshowing, of Jesse promised fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light amid the  
cold, cold winter and in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root  
springing in Mary, purest Maid; For through our God’s great love and might  
the blessed Babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter’s night. Alleluia!*

**\*An Advent Doxology**

TRURO



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
2. So, come, my Sov' - reign, en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
no - bler life be - gin! Thy Ho - ly Spi - rit,



draw - ing - near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

*During the 9:30 service, 1st and 2nd graders may exit at this time using  
the doors at the front-right of the Sanctuary to meet their teachers for  
Worship Explorers. **Children must be checked-in and have a nametag.**  
A check-in kiosk is available in the hallway outside the Sanctuary doors.*

**\*The Scripture Reading: Genesis 1.1-5; John 1.1-5; Hebrews 1.1-4**

Genesis 1.1-5

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the  
deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

*<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.*

*<sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from  
the darkness.*

*<sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was  
evening and there was morning, the first day.*

John 1.1-5

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

<sup>2</sup> *He was in the beginning with God.*

<sup>3</sup> *All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.*

<sup>4</sup> *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

<sup>5</sup> *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Hebrews 1.1-4

*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*

<sup>2</sup> *but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.*

<sup>3</sup> *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

<sup>4</sup> *having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

Sermon

“Tracing the Light”

Mr. Davis

*Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please continue at the closing hymn.*

**\*The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

**People: Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name; evermore praising You, and singing:**



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n \_\_\_\_\_ and earth \_\_\_\_\_ are full \_\_\_\_\_ of Your glo-ry.



Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

**\*The Words of Institution 8:00**

**Communion 8:00**

*Please remain seated.  
You will be served by your elders, and we will all partake  
together when so instructed by the pastor.  
(The bread being served is gluten free.)*

**\*Closing Hymn**                      **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**                      *VENI EMMANUEL*  
*Hymn No. 194 in the Trinity Hymnal*



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2. O come, O come, Thou Lord \_\_\_ of might, Who to Thy  
3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from  
4. O come, Thou Day - spring from \_\_\_ on high, and cheer us  
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
tribes, on Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give \_\_\_ the  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell Thy peo - ple  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads \_\_\_ on



here, un - til the Son of God \_\_\_ ap - pear.  
law in cloud and maj - es - ty \_\_\_ and awe.  
save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er \_\_\_ the grave. Re - joice!  
night, and death's dark shad - ows put \_\_\_ to flight.  
high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

**\*The Benediction**

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has  
risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1  
People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**



## The Postlude

8:00

“Come, Redeemer of Mankind”  
Mrs. Preston, organ

*Johann Pachelbel*

9:30/11:00

“Savior of the Nations, Come”  
Dr. Davy, organ

*J. S. Bach*

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



**Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists to extend the transforming presence of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas and to the world.**

**SERMON NOTES**

Genesis 1.1-5; John 1.1-5; Hebrews 1.1-4

“Tracing the Light”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.*

1. Summarize the theme of light as revealed in these three passages. What stands out? Do you see anything new?
2. What role does the Lord Jesus play in creation?
3. What is the connection between light and life?
4. What is the connection between the Light and the Word?
5. What are some of your favorite words, symbols, or music that capture the theme of light during this season?
6. What does the author of Hebrews mean when he says of Christ, "He is the radiance of the glory of God"?
7. Why is it important to trace the theme of light through the history of redemption?
8. What hope does John give us in the way he describes the Light?
9. Where do you see and feel darkness? How might these words transform you as you encounter darkness?
10. In your own words fill in this blank: The Light \_\_\_\_\_!

# Highlights

DECEMBER 1, 2024

## What's Next?

We have friendly faces waiting to help you connect to Christ and one another at PCPC just as you exit the front of the Sanctuary. Look for the Connect banner on your way to the Grand Hall. We would also love to help you abide in and extend Christ. You can find out more at the Information Center in the Grand Hall. Download the free PCPC mobile app to explore more.

## Connection Card

Thanks for joining us today! If you are new or looking to connect at our church, please scan the QR code and fill out our Connection Card, so we can know you were here and help you connect.

[pcpc.org/connect](https://pcpc.org/connect)



## Women's Advent Prayer

*Tuesday, December 3*

7:00 P.M. | CHAPEL

Women, come for a time of devotion and prayer to prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Fellowship afterward in the Grand Hall with desserts and coffee!

[pcpc.org/advent](https://pcpc.org/advent)

## Boxes of Blessing

*Saturday, December 7*

8:30-11:30 A.M. | 6100 CEDAR SPRINGS RD

Bring your family and friends to help us extend the Kingdom of Christ to our city by filling 11,000 boxes of food. Sign up online.

[pcpc.org/christmas-service-opportunities](https://pcpc.org/christmas-service-opportunities)

## Family Advent Service

*Sunday, December 8*

4:30 P.M. | SANCTUARY

Incorporating costumes (provided by us), live music, reading parts, and engaging your children as participants make for an interactive Advent celebration. Please join us for worship & dinner (reservations close on December 4).

[pcpc.org/advent](https://pcpc.org/advent)

## Advent Prayer Book

Download a free *Abide in the Light Advent Prayer Book*, or if you don't have one, pick up a copy in the Grand Hall. The daily Scripture readings walk through God's redemptive actions in history. Keep it for years to come!

[pcpc.org/advent](https://pcpc.org/advent)



## Year End Giving

In order to comply with IRS regulations, Tuesday, Dec. 31, is the deadline for donations to be received for 2024. Mailed checks must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Church offices will be closed Dec. 23 through Jan. 1. Donations can be hand-delivered to the secure drop box at the south entrance. For stock donation instructions, contact Cheli Conejo. Please note that mutual fund donations can take up to one month to process. Thank you for your generous stewardship of all God has given.

[pcpc.org/give](https://pcpc.org/give)

## Advent Special Events

*Advent Memorial Service*

DEC. 4 | 5:30 P.M.

*60+ Community Christmas Celebration*

DEC. 6 | 11:30 A.M.

*Advent Song & Story*

DEC. 13 | 10:00 A.M.

*Christmas Eve Services*

DEC. 24 | 4:00 (FAMILY) & 8:00 P.M.

[pcpc.org/advent](https://pcpc.org/advent)



## PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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[pcpc.org](https://pcpc.org)

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24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

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Sermon Archives: [pcpc.org/sermons](https://pcpc.org/sermons)

Deep Light Podcast: [pcpc.org/deeplight](https://pcpc.org/deeplight)

Every Thought Captive: [etcdevo.org](https://etcdevo.org)

## GIVE ONLINE

You may scan the QR code to give online at [pcpc.org/give/](https://pcpc.org/give/).



Download the PCPC

App with iOS or Android device where you can give online (including setting up recurring gifts).

## GENERAL FUND

2024/2025 Operating Budget	\$17,200,000
Jul 1, 2024–Nov 17, 2024 Budget	\$5,225,226
Jul 1, 2024–Nov 17, 2024 Giving	\$4,529,908
Budget Variance	(\$695,318)