

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## \* *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (No. 196)*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;  
Come, thou Promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:  
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;  
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend!  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

## Welcome and Announcements

Wes Strebeck, *Senior Pastor*

## \* Greeting

## \* Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Mike & Kaye Lemons

*This light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light.*

*If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*We are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness.*

*Jesus said, "Everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."*

—based on John 1:4-5; 12:46; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 John 1:7

## \* Call to Worship

Matt Roberson, *elder*

**Leader:** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

**All:** **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption.

**All:** **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**All:** **There is no darkness with you, O Lord.**

## \* Prayer of Invocation

\* *congregation standing (as able)*

## \* *What Child is This (No. 213)*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:  
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

## Confession of Sin

**Leader:** 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.

**All:** **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.**

## Silent Confession of Sin

### Assurance of Pardon

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin,  
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

### \* *Sing We the Song of Emmanuel*

Sing we the song of Emmanuel, this the Christ who was long foretold.  
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.  
God Most High in a manger laid; lift your voices and now proclaim:  
Great and glorious, Love has come to us; join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, King who came with no crown or throne.  
Helpless he lay, the Invincible, Maker of Mary, now Mary's son.  
O what wisdom to save us all, shepherds, sages, before him fall.  
Grace and majesty, what humility, come on bended knee, adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel, joy and peace for the weary heart.  
Lift up your heads, for your King has come. Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark.  
Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way, he will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus.

Glory shining for all to see, hope alive, let the gospel ring.  
God has made a way, he will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus.

Boswell, Papa, Townsend, Getty | © 2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs  
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## Small Talk

*Children ages 3 years old – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the speaker on the Sanctuary steps.  
They also have the option of participating in Children's Worship (downstairs following the small talk.  
Volunteers are at the back of the sanctuary to escort the children downstairs.*

*Children will remain in Room 8 (sanctuary lower level) until picked up promptly by parents.*

## Pastoral Prayer

## God's Tithes and Our Offerings

*You may give online via [ardenpres.org](http://ardenpres.org) or the QR code on back page.*

## Musical Offertory

Michael Marano

*Zechariah's Song*  
from *The Fullness of Time*  
Anthony D. Moore © 2002, 2024

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people  
and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,  
as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved  
from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;  
to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,  
the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we,  
being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,  
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.*

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before  
the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God,  
whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit  
in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

## Sermon

The Songs of Advent  
*Benedictus*  
Luke 1:57-80  
Pew Bible p. 856

Wes Strebeck

\* *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (No. 208, v. 1, 3, 4)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God in the highest;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord*

**\* Benediction and Dismissal**

*Elders are available down front after the service for prayer.*

*In support of faith promise, the flowers are placed in the church today  
in loving memory of Barbara Gorman by her husband Tom.*



**WEEKLY EMAIL**

Scan this QR Code to subscribe to our weekly email.  
The email comes each Friday and highlights pertinent  
information about our church and ministries.

**This week's prayer requests, missions moment, and announcements are  
available at the welcome center and in the weekly email.**

**THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING DATES**

**Sunday** Second Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Program (7:00 p.m.)  
**Tuesday** Zoom Prayer Meeting (6:30 p.m.)  
**Wednesday** Ladies Zoom prayer time (10:00 a.m.)  
**Thursday** Men's Prayer and Bible Study (8:00 a.m.)  
  
**December 15** Third Sunday of Advent  
Angel Tree gifts due  
Children's Christmas Pageant and Church Caroling (4:30 p.m.)  
**December 21** Angel Tree deliveries  
**December 22** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Christmas Brunch (9:30 a.m.)  
**December 24** Christmas Eve Service (6:00 p.m.)

*See weekly email or announcement sheet for details!*

**OUR VISION**

*As a family called by God's grace and led by God's Word, we seek to welcome all people as part of  
God's kingdom work, both locally and globally, by prayerfully extending the praises of Christ to  
our neighbors and communities.*

**Children's Sunday School Classes** | 9:30 – 10:20 a.m.  
**Student & Adult Sunday School Classes** | 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.  
**Worship Service** | 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you are unable to attend our weekly worship service,  
you may watch our live stream at [ardenpres.org/live-webcast](http://ardenpres.org/live-webcast)

**Arden Presbyterian Church**  
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**MINISTRY STAFF**

**Rev. Wes Strebeck**, Senior Pastor (ext. 307) | [wes@ardenpres.org](mailto:wes@ardenpres.org)  
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**Jim Holland**, Organ

**CURRENT OFFICERS**

**ELDERS:** Mark Hedrick, Steve Jennings, Daniel Moore, Mike Neese,  
Bill Resh, Matt Roberson, Greg Senter, Kenny Simpkins, Leon Turlington  
**DEACONS:** David Avdich, Kenneth Dupee, Bob Hubert,  
Larry Kidd, Jeremy Pressley, Tom Robertson

**Mercy Ministry Deacon Contact:** Kenneth Dupee | (828)-808-7597 | [kcdupree@gmail.com](mailto:kcdupree@gmail.com)



ONLINE GIVING

**Financial Update as of 12/06/24;** Weekly Offering 12/01/24: \$80,545

	December Giving	YTD Giving	YTD Expense	YTD Diff.
<b>General Fund</b>	\$29,822	\$888,171	\$900,210	(-\$12,038)
<b>Mercy Fund</b>	\$3,830	\$23,500	\$21,216	\$2,284
<b>Faith Promise</b>	\$43,148	\$199,426	** \$214,047	(-\$14,620)
<b>Building</b>	\$650	\$24,135	\$22,419	\$1,716

\*\* Expenses include a Session-approved non-budgeted \$25,000 gift to five missionary units  
out of our 2023 Faith Giving surplus. All other expenses have been budgeted for 2024.



*Following Christ, proclaiming his praises,  
and engaging our community with his grace.*

**December 8, 2024 – Second Sunday of Advent  
10:45 a.m.**

**Welcome** to Arden Presbyterian Church! We hope your time in worship with us  
is a blessing to you. For all **first-time guests**, we have a gift for you at our **Welcome  
Center** located in the **Lobby**. Please drop by and see us!

**Options for children during worship:**

- Children of all ages are welcome to remain with their parents in worship.  
We have bags with activities as you enter the Sanctuary. The activities may  
be taken home.
- Children may also participate in Children's Worship following Small Talk.
- Nursery is available for birth through age 4.

**Devices for the hearing impaired** are available at the lobby welcome center.

**The Balcony** is available for those who are immunocompromised or for those  
who have heightened health concerns. Masks are available at the balcony entrance  
for those who would like one.

**Learn more about our church family** by visiting the Welcome Center in the  
lobby or our website: [ardenpres.org](http://ardenpres.org)