

First Sunday of Advent

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Classic Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
December 3, 2023

WELCOME Dr. John Robbins

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Noël Huron* arr. Denis Bédard

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on Isaiah 11)

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

People: from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him;

**People: with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.**

Pastor: The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,

**People: the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.**

Pastor: Let us sing with praise as we look towards the coming of the Lord.

People: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*** PROCESSIONAL HYMN 196** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

*** LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH** (9:00) The Benton Family
(11:00) The Holloway Family

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Hope.
May the light sent from God shine in the darkness
to show us the way of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

All Sing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR ADVENT** – by Nathan Nettleton Rev. Daniel Curry

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

**We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby
yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair.
Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way
to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth
as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt,
degrading and deceitful.**

**We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us
in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven,
when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters,
robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.**

For the coming of that day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*** GLORIA PATRI 70** MEINEKE

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON

**O promised Christ: we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming.
We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions,
but weak at keeping promises. Our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and
help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon,
and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news.

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven,

All: Glory to God. Amen.

HYMN 216 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ES IST EIN ROS
(Verse 1 & 2)

*** SCRIPTURE LESSON** Luke 1:26-28 Dr. John Robbins
This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

* GREETING

SERMON When God Comes Calling

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Abbey Maynard
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Michael Larkin

*** DOXOLOGY 95** OLD 100th
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** Dr. Jeffery Hampton
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:
And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

