

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Presbyterian Church
Tallahassee, Florida
Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025, 11:00 AM



GATHERING

Ringling of the Zimbelstern

Voluntary

Voluntary No. 1 in A Major, Op. 7 No. 1: I. Adagio

John Stanley

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Glenn Hodges

Call to Worship and Lighting of Candle

Willis Family

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come...
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen

Opening Prayer

*Hymn 107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

REJOICE, REJOICE

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Magnificent God,
it is easy to rejoice at
the wilderness bursting into bloom
and the hungry being filled with good things.
We may not want
the powerful to be brought down
or the rich to be sent away empty.
We know that sometimes, we are the powerful.
Sometimes, we are the rich.
Sometimes we are the ones with privilege,
Ignoring and harming those you would lift up.
Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us,
that we may follow your way of life and truth.

*Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, we are forgiven! **Alleluia! Thanks be to God.**

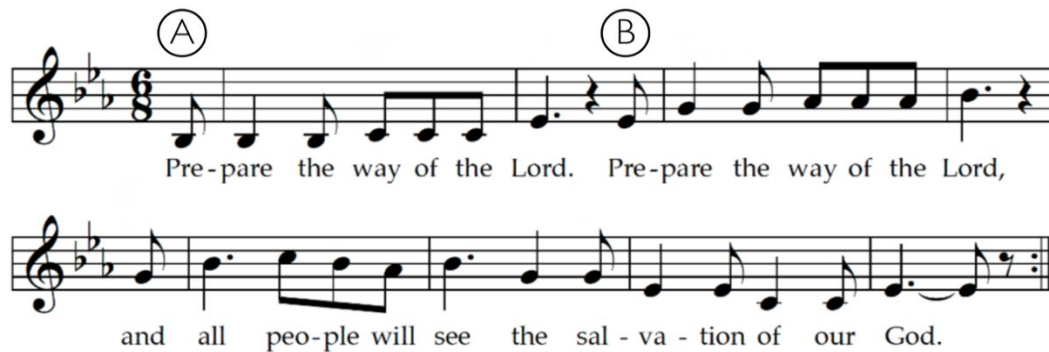
Asterisks indicate to please rise in body or spirit. Congregational responses are in **bold print.*

*Sung Response (Hymn 95)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

Sung once in unison, twice in canon (A = North, B = South)



*The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Willis Family

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 806

I'll Praise My Maker (Psalm 146)

OLD 113TH

Epistle

James 5:7-10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Glenn Hodges

EUCCHARIST

*Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
... *who is coming in glory to reign.* **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy *kindom* 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 *kindom*, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to Offering

Presentation of Gifts, Tithes, and Offerings

Anthem

All Praise, Eternal Son, to Thee

Thomas Tallis, arr. Alan Bullard

*All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free;
Whom with the Father, we adore,
And Spirit blest for evermore.
Amen.*

*Presentation Hymn 609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LAST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Blessing and Charge

May the God of peace make you holy
and the power of the Spirit sustain you
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!**
Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

Voluntary

Voluntary No. 1 in A Major, Op. 7 No. 1: II. Allegro

John Stanley

IN WORSHIP TODAY

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — We offer prayers for healing for Juana Maria Diaz Perez (mother of Ruben Diaz), Bob Rackleff, Rich Peyton, Brant Copeland, Martha Kutter, Joyce Crawford, Bev Breedlove, Tara Reynolds, Sandra Sherrard, and Martha Snowden. **We offer prayers for strength and mercy** for Evanna (sister of Wayne Friedemann); Patricia McCoy Delancey; and Thaddeus Gillon. **We pray for the staff and volunteers** of Second Harvest of the Big Bend as well as those of all our mission partners. **We pray for victims of gun violence** in our community and our country. **We pray for the Presbyterian Reformed Church** in Cuba, Pastor Izett Samá Hernández, and Pastor Alison Infante. **We pray for peace** in Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and around the world. **We also pray for those in military service**, including Brian Guisao, Ross Yeilding, David DelRossi, and Owen Elzie.

“Kingdom” or “Kindom” in the Lord’s Prayer? Kingdoms were the dominant community structure when our Scriptures were written. Some find it meaningful to think about other Biblical metaphors to convey the ethos of care and genuine kin-ships about which Jesus taught and preached. Please pray as you choose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children are welcome in this service as full members of God's family. Parents and children are invited to use whatever is useful in the basket by the door to the Narthex. Childcare for children under the age of kindergarten is in the Education Building. Please note that during worship the Education Building is locked. Please enter through the breezeway door.

Restrooms are located in this building through the door at the end of each ground floor aisle of the sanctuary.

An induction loop system is available in the sanctuary. To use the system, switch your compatible hearing aid to the T-telephone mode or request a wireless headset from an usher.

Large print versions of the *Glory to God* hymnal and worship bulletin are available from ushers.

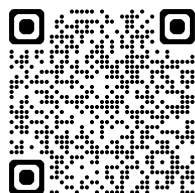
Visitors: We are glad you are here this morning! If you have questions about our congregation or membership, please let us know by using the friendship registers or speaking to one of the greeters so we can connect you with the right people.

Please join us after worship **today** for refreshments and fellowship. Next Sunday, **December 21**, new Elders will be ordained and installed, then all are welcome to join us after worship for chili and caroling!

CHECK-IN



Let us know you came
to Worship today!



QR CODES



GIVE ONLINE



Online Offerings &
Donations

MEMBERS OF SESSION 2025-27

CLASS OF 2025

Donna Barber
Carolyn Bradley
Debbie Gibson
Patrick Kennedy
Sue Safford

CLASS OF 2026

Jane Atkinson
Daniel Bruno
Eleanor Cleveland
Janet Fixel
Greg Riccardi, Clerk

CLASS OF 2027

Kay Crowell
Jon Dodrill
Caitlin James
Mary Kutter
Deb Whisnant

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

OFFICIANT
SCRIPTURE READER
CHOIR
CHOIR DIRECTOR
ORGANIST
VIDEO TEAM LEAD

Rev. Glenn Hodges
Willis Family
The Adult Choir
Dr. Bryan Stenson
Victoria Coey
Carl Morse

Rev. Glenn Hodges, Designated Pastor
Rev. Dr. Greta Reed, Parish Associate
Dr. Bryan Stenson, Director of Music
Victoria Coey, Organist
Fran Owens, Financial Administrator
Jackie Callahan, Communications and Administrative Support Coordinator
Becky Brown, Custodian and Sunday Host

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107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14 / Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

806

I'll Praise My Maker

(Psalm 146)

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice
 2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports
 4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.
 who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;
 the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.
 is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.
 the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

This paraphrase of Psalm 146 was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, South Carolina) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

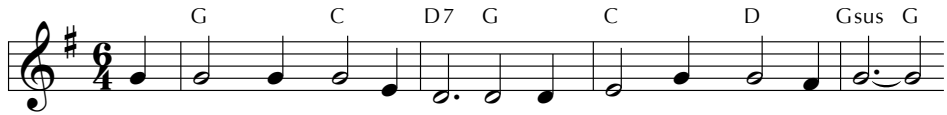
high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

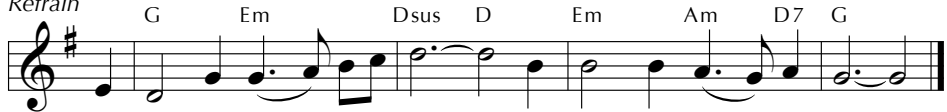


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

Refrain



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.