

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHIMES

(The congregation is asked to pray for the blessing of God upon this service.)  
*God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, and the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength. Amen.*

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Paul Manz

INTROIT *I Will Love the Lord* Michael Bedford

The Children's Choirs

Raynelle Stanage, conductor; Hollice Watson, accompanist

I will love the Lord with all my heart; I will love the Lord with all my soul;  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!  
To God alone will I lift my voice; For God will hear me as I pray,  
To God alone will I sing and rejoice! And answer in a special way.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: We give thanks for the light of Christ, shining in the lives of all people.

One: With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Lighting of the Candle

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Help us to hear his voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in the glorious day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace. Amen.

One: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

†OPENING HYMN, No. 3 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*  
PSALM 42

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God,  
In the company of your people,  
We confess our sins to you.

We have been angry and impatient,  
complaining about the faults of others,  
and failing to see our own.

Silence

We have been lazy and selfish,  
neglecting the interests of others,  
while pursuing our own.

Silence

We have been faithless and unworthy,  
ignoring the strength you provide,  
and relying on ourselves alone.

(Continue your personal prayer of confession in silence)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE, HYMN No. 1

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* STUTTGART

Congregation and Choir

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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

†ACT OF PRAISE, HYMN No. 23 (refrain only)

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo* GLORIA

Congregation and Choir

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

Stand, as you are able, and greet one another saying: "*The peace of Christ be with you.*" Respond by saying: "*And also with you.*"  
(Children are invited to come forward now for A Time with Children.)

THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Leader: As you depart from us now, the children of God say:

Children: God be with you as you stay.

Congregation: God be with you as you go.

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.

Children, ages 2-3 yrs. who will be going to Extended Session and children, ages 4-first grade who will be in The Worship Center, may exit at this time through the narthex, where they will be escorted to the CE Building.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11

Pew Bible, page 627; large print, page 816

(Bibles are located in the racks beneath the pews.)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, page 32; large print, 42

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*A Voice in the Wilderness*

Rev. Pendleton Peery

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - The Nicene Creed

Hymnal, page 15

†HYMN, No. 172 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

RESIGNATION

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory *Long Ago, Prophets Knew* arr. Malcolm Archer  
The Sanctuary Choir

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come,  
Born a Jew; come to make all things new;  
Bear his people's burden, freely love and pardon.  
Ring, bells, ring! Sing, choirs, sing!  
When he comes, who will make him welcome?  
God in time, God in man, this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man, born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.  
Ring, bells, ring! Sing, choirs, sing!  
When he comes, who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid, she believed,  
She obeyed. In her womb God is laid:  
Till the time expected, nurtured and protected,  
Ring, bells, ring! Sing, choirs, sing!  
When he comes, who will make him welcome?  
Journey ends! Where afar Bethlem shines,  
Like a star, stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary, Saviour, do not tarry!  
Ring, bells, ring! Sing, choirs, sing!  
When he comes, we will make him welcome!

†Doxology, No. 592

OLD HUNDREDTH

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving  
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

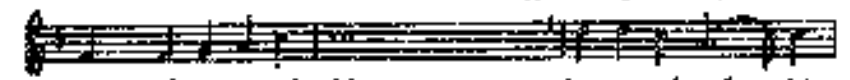
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

... who forever sing to the glory of your name:



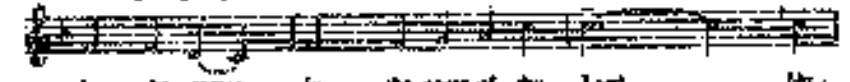
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.



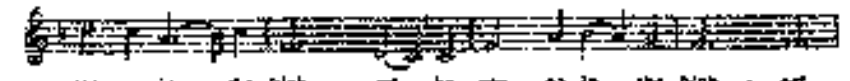
God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are



full of your glory, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is



he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

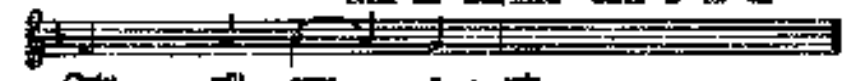


san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Grant to the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is risen.



Christ will come to judge the

.. All glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer  
Communion of the People  
Prayer after Communion

†HYMN, No. 11 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*  
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

†CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

†RESPONSE *Long Ago, Prophets Knew*  
arr. Malcolm Archer

The Sanctuary Choir  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes, Jesus comes; we will make him welcome!

†POSTLUDE *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* Paul Manz

† Worshipers standing if able.

Elder Reader: Frank Dodson  
Ushers: Neil Erwin (captain), Glenda Erwin, Carol Shockey, Maggie Schuetze, Paul Schuetze, Berry Glassell, Stephen Glassell, John Guth  
Extended Session: Denise Aldrich  
Worship Center Leaders: Anna Gnann, Sharon Cage

**Ministers: All Members of the Congregation**

**Session Ministry Moderators:**

John Frierson	Administration	johnfrierson60@yahoo.com
John Guth	Church Facilities	johnguth@bellsouth.net
Rick LaBorde	Outreach	claborde@wspump.com
David Oliver	Stewardship	dmo@rcco.com
Lynn Chance	Congregational Life	LWChance@att.net
Robert Folsom	Adult	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net
David Butterfield	Youth	david@msrlaw.com
Rob Ajluni	Children	robajluni@hotmail.com
George Fritze	Evangelism	kinggpf@yahoo.com
Bruce Henderson	Worship	bhenderson@highlandclinic.com
Elton Richey	Communications	ebrlaw@bellsouth.net
Julie Blewer	Staff Committee	jblewer@djslawfirm.com

**Church Staff:**

Pendleton B. Peery	Pastor
Bryan L. McDowell	Associate Pastor
Sarah Cooper Searight	Associate Pastor
Hollice S. Watson	Organist/Choir Director
Lindsey Wells Peery	Director of Children's Ministries
Peggy E. Sartin	Administrative Coordinator
Cindy K. Natale	Director, First Presbyterian Day School
Ginger Collier	Communications Director
Lauren Rogers	Director of Youth Ministry
Susan B. Whaley	Church Secretary
Lona L. Lockard	Staff Secretary
Jeff A. McKenzie	Sexton
Sherry L. Odom	Housekeeper
Lillie M. Sutton	Housekeeper

WORSHIP NOTES

**WE WELCOME FRIENDS AND VISITORS.** This church is for anyone who wants to be counted as a disciple of Jesus Christ, and who wants to be included in its worship and work. Thank you for signing your name and address on the attendance pad. There is an information center with material about our church and Presbyterianism in the foyer of the Jordan Street entrance to the sanctuary.

**CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN** by Sitters' Registry and church volunteers. A nursery is available in CE-106 during both 8:45 morning prayer and 10:45 worship. During worship, Extended Session for 2-3-year-olds is offered in CE-105, and children 4 years - first grade are welcome in the Worship Center (CE-113).

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP!** Bibles are available for use during worship; they are found at the end of every pew. We also provide **Worship Bags** designed for children elementary age and younger. The worship bags can be found in the narthex and at the front entrances to the sanctuary. Please return them after the service.

**WE WELCOME** into the fellowship of this church Paula and Kenneth Hickman, of Shreveport on November 13, 2011.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Lindsey and Pen Peery on the birth of their twins November 30, 2011. Eliza and Tyler will be welcomed home by their big brother, Wells.

**THE ART** on the cover of the bulletin today is by the artist Daniel Bonner.

**LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE** today are John Knox, Jr., and Katherine Sale, who are currently serving on the Board of Deacons.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
SHREVEPORT

A Service for the Worship of God  
Ten Forty-Five O'Clock  
December 4, 2011  
Second Sunday of Advent



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us worship God.