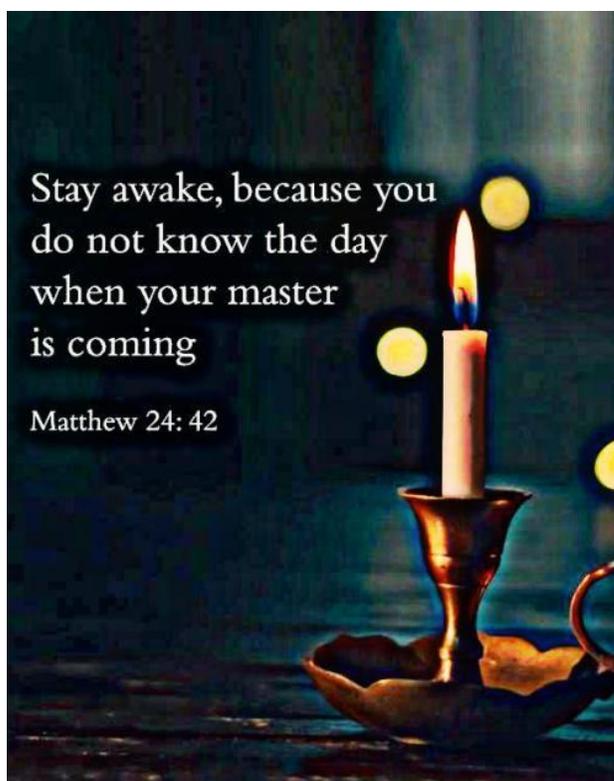


Living Out God's Call to Joy and to Justice

First Presbyterian Church, McAllen
Sunday Worship – November 27, 2022
First Sunday of Advent



Stay awake, because you
do not know the day
when your master
is coming

Matthew 24: 42

*Stir up our hearts, we beseech you,
to prepare ourselves to receive your Son.
When he comes and knocks,
may he find us not sleeping in sin,
but awake to righteousness,
ceaselessly rejoicing in his love.
May our hearts and minds be so purified,
that we may be ready to receive
his promise of eternal life.*

*The Gelasian Sacramentary, c. 500;
possibly the oldest prayer book
of the Western church*

Opening Sentences

- I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that we may learn God’s
ways and walk in God’s paths.

Call to Worship in Song:

*Please join in the Call and Response African Hymns by repeating the words
sung by the Song Leader.*

Prayer of the Day

God of glory,
we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour.
come to us now, in spirit and truth.
Take us up into your presence,
and make us ready for your reign of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Congregational Call to Confession Surely, It is God Who Saves Me, refrain

*Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and God will be my Savior.*

Prayer of Confession

Now is the time to wake from sleep –
to cast off the shroud of sin
and put on the garment of grace.
Let us trust the promise of God's mercy,
for the day of salvation is near.

**God of the future,
you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom,
for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.
We accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbors,
abuse the earth,
and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.
Grant us wisdom to welcome your way,
and to seek things that will endure
when Christ comes to judge the world.**
A moment of silent prayer.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved, know this:
the God of Presence,
the God of Transformation,
the God of Hope,
hears our prayers
and gives us power to love.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

Thanks be to God!

Lighting the Advent Wreath

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:11-12)

The world says, "All is lost."
God says, "All is loved."
The darkness says, "The light is dying."
The light says, "The fire is catching."
Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."
Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light this first Advent candle – the Candle of Hope –
we pray for the holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.



Hymn

While We Are Waiting, Come

GG #92

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come;
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord be with you all. / **And also with you.**

Prayer Requests and Life of the Church

Prayer for Illumination

Faithful God,
through the gift of your word
you offer us instruction,
encouragement, and hope.
By the power of your Spirit
teach us to live in hope,
sharing joy and peace with the world;
in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Time with the Younger Church

Anthem

Gospel Reading

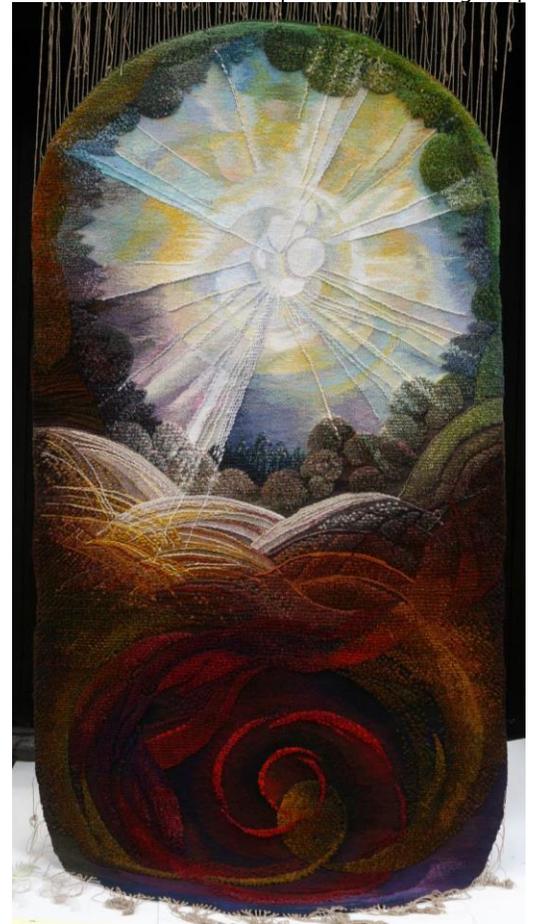
Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Word of the Lord / **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Maija Purgaile
Advent Painting



Affirmation of Faith

from the Confession of 1967

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response
of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant
for the reconciliation of the world. (9.19)**

Reflection Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

GG #93

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with power and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

God of hope, we come to you as our waiting time begins –
this “already but not yet” time.

We look forward just a few weeks
and prepare to celebrate your coming years ago.
We remember to prepare for your coming again.

We pray in hope.

God of peace, as part of the preparations for your coming,
may we begin to beat our swords into plowshares.

May we dismantle our weapons of mass destruction,
and rid ourselves of our stockpiles of fear.

May we sow seeds of connection rather than discontent.

May we teach peace to the nations
who continue to study war, including our own.

We pray for your peace.

God of joy, lead us in the joyful work of making peace.
May we seek ways to feed those who hunger,
to bind up those who are wounded,
to get treatment for all who are addicted,
to find housing for all who need it,
and provide protection for any who are not safe.
May our joy be rooted in your promises to care for the stranger,
to release the captive,
to bring good news to the poor,
and to let the oppressed go free.

We pray for such joy.

God of love, a joy so deed and wide will surely expand our hearts.
So today as we pray for those we love already –
family, friends, neighbors, colleagues –
we pray also for those who are harder for us to love –
family, friends, neighbors, colleagues.
Love isn't easy;
we ask for your strength and guidance.

We pray to love well.

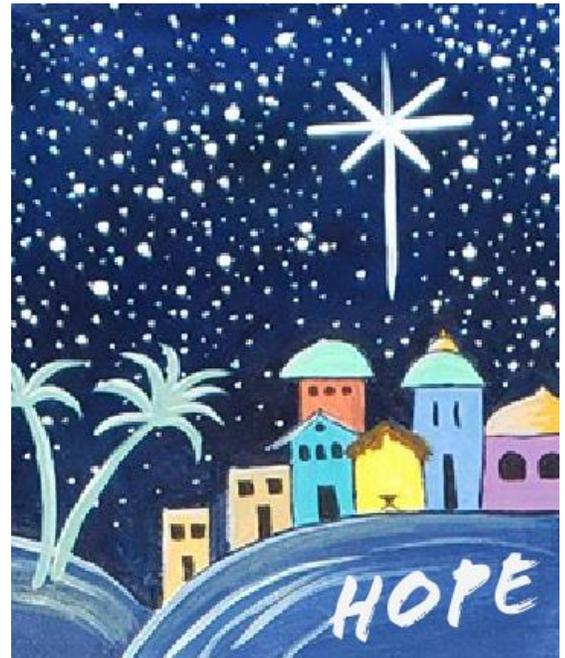
As we journey toward Bethlehem
to meet at the manger once again,
may we not forget to look for you
all around and at all times –
wherever we encounter
your hope, peace, joy, and love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us, saying:
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Invitation to the Offering

With gratitude and joy,
let us bring the works of our hands
and the gift of our lives
as an offering of praise to the Lord.

Offertory



Act of Dedication

Now Thank We All Our God, v. 3

GG #643

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

Offertory Prayer

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have built us up in faith
and bound us together in love.
By your grace, may all that we do
show the glory of your name
and serve the good of your people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Charge and Benediction

Congregational Response – Call and Response African Hymns

Postlude

Today's Worship Leaders:

Kathryn J. Escandell	David Rowland	Mauricia and Dana Friedman	Tabali Family
Ann Rowland	Beverly Avila	Robert Garza	Ale Pacheco

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