



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Tennessee
November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends,

As we enter this holiday season, we do so under circumstances none of us has ever had to contend with before. I hope you will all take the necessary precautions to stay safe during the weeks and months ahead.

While the news concerning the production of an effective vaccine to combat this disease is encouraging, we are all aware, at least intellectually, that it will still be months before it can be widely distributed. And until a vaccine has become an actual vaccination it doesn't do much good to fight a virus.

The numbers of infections and deaths from this virus are, not surprisingly, rising. We were told they would. Your session and I continue to monitor our local situation. We have suspended most of our in-person activities except Sunday morning worship. I think these are appropriate measures at this time.

The operative words being "at this time." As circumstances change, we will change and adapt accordingly.

I want to thank those of you who are attending worship in person for observing the protocols the session has implemented. I also want to thank those of you who are worshipping with us via our live stream. I imagine it must be difficult for many of you not to be able to be here in person. But you are doing what good Presbyterians do, you are following your conscience. Good for you.

We all look forward to the day when we can gather for worship once again without fear.

However, the work of the church goes on. Cindy is doing a wonderful job of providing crafts and activities for our children and families to engage in at home and via Zoom gatherings. The youth are also continuing to meet via Zoom.

Your committees and session are hard at work trying to carry on as best we can under the current conditions and restrictions.

As you know December 6th is our Pledge Sunday this year. Like so many other things because of COVID our stewardship drive this year has been rather low-key. But your pledges of time, talents and treasure are still needed, perhaps more so. Please prayerfully consider what your pledge will be in those three areas and be ready to bring those offerings by December 6th.

One of the great themes of the season of Advent is the theme of hope. The hope that came into the world in the form of a child. And the hope that we have as we await this child's return as ruler of heaven and earth. Cling to that hope and may it fill you with peace, joy and love and sustain you during these difficult days. It sure helps me.

Grace and Peace,
Taylor

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd Youth

Children's Announcements

Cindy Lamb

Prelude

Billie Crowell

Advent Greeting

Advent Readers & Candle Lighters

Liturgy of the Hope Candle

Helen Garner & Margaret Smith

Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*Prayer of Preparation

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we become distracted, even weary, in our discipleship. We keep busy schedules; we rush about. Captivated by technology, seduced by the lure of consumer goods, we do not remain alert to Your divine presence in our lives, in the church, in the world. Make us better doorkeepers of our lives, watching for You attentively. Awaken us to Your surprising power and glory and peace, so we do not miss how near You are to our very own gates.

Be gracious toward us, we pray, until we are gathered, from the ends of earth to the ends of heaven, into Your embrace. We pray in the name of Christ, who was, and is and is to come.

Time for Silent Confession

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Billie Crowell

*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A Time for Young Christians

Kate Canady

Children's Church

Cindy Lamb

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: **Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37**

Sermon: **"Watching and Waiting"**

Rev. Taylor Todd

Music: **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"**

Mack Howell

***RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

***Profession of Faith**

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became man and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete His mission. This work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humankind and the world. Therefore, the church calls men and women to be reconciled to God and to one another.

Amen.

(The Book of Confessions: The Confession of 1967 paragraph 9.07)

SEALING OF THE WORD

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom 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 kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***Doxology (Instrumental)**

Billie Crowell

Prayer of Dedication

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Charge and Blessing**

Rev. Dr. Taylor Todd

***Postlude**

Billie Crowell

Advent Prayers: Week One

Hope

GIVE ME STRENGTH. GIVE ME HOPE.
SHOW ME THE PATH. PROTECT AND GUARD ME.
THIS PRAYER I SEND IN THE MIGHTY NAME
OF MY KING OF KINGS, JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS ^{AND} EVENTS

****PLEASE WEAR A MASK OUT OF RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR OTHERS****

Monday, December 1st~Faith Development Meeting at 5:30pm

Wednesday, December 2nd~Worship & Music Meeting at 5:30pm

Saturday, December 5th

- Preparation for Backpacking 10am.
- The Night Circle is asking for donations of a pair of tennis shoes for *Clothe Our Kids of Bedford Co.* Any size shoe, for a girl or boy. You may bring your donation by the office.

Sunday, December 6th

- **Pledge Sunday**~Pledge offering, Time, Talents, & Service forms are due.
- **Assembling Backpack food boxes at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall.**
- You may leave them at the Church Office, Monday-Friday, 8am-1pm.

Winter Coat Drive: Gently worn or new coats of 'all' sizes. Bring to Shelbyville 1st United Methodist Church on Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm by **December 14th.**

Sunday, December 13th

5 Cents A Meal Banks are due.



Sunday, November 29th

Greeters Roy & Lisa Turner

Advent Readers & Candle Lighters

Helen Garner & Margaret Smith

Hall Monitor Nancy June Brandon

A Time for Young Christians Kate Canady

Children's Church Cindy Lamb

Nursery Abby Hittle

Sunday, December 6th

Greeters Adrian Bomar & Melanie Hamilton

Advent Readers & Candle Lighters

John, Bea, Mary Ruth & Evie Marsh

Hall Monitor Leo Skelton

A Time for Young Christians Kate Canady

Children's Church Cindy Lamb

Nursery Pat Thomas