



Welcome

PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 28, 2021 | 10:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come) BWV 659
Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, organ

J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Wes Avram

Call to Worship

O come, O come, Emmanuel
Michael Tallino, baritone

No. 9, v. 1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Lighting the Candle of HOPE

The Erion Family

As winter days dim and bow to early darkness, you, God of light, set watch in the night sky and beckon the wise to follow.

When hope hangs low in the human heart, you, loving Creator, kindle compassion, breathing life into the early embers of change and empathy.

We light a candle for hope, as Advent dawns; God of all hope, shine your light on the story of the saints who journeyed before us. May the seeds they planted in the world – peace, joy, love – take hold in our hearts and stretch towards the light.

* **Opening Hymn**

Comfort, Comfort You My People

No. 3

1 *Comfort, comfort you my people,
Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak you to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over.*

3 *Make you straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.*

2 *For the herald's voice is calling
In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance
Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
And the hills bow down in greeting.*

Call to Confession

Michael Hegeman

Common Confession and Assurance (unison)

Michael Hegeman

God of the past, present and future, you are coming in power to set all things right. We are often so distracted by the season's busyness, and by the stress of commitment, that we overlook the true meaning of Christmas. Forgive us when we miss seeing you in our midst, for the times we have doubted your presence, and for when we fail to hold the holidays as holy days. In this season of waiting, prepare us for the greatest gift of all: Jesus, our coming Lord. Now hear our silent prayers of confession. (Silence.)

* **Congregational Response**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
**All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.**

No. 10, v. 4

* **Passing of the Peace**

Michael Hegeman

Dedication & Sacrament of Baptism

Luca Giovanni

Wes Avram
Mary Upchurch, Assisting Elder
Child of Heather Alfano-DeRosa & Gianni DeRosa

Baptism Hymn

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

No. 498, vs. 1, 3

1 **Child of blessing, child of promise,
baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you
unto love and grace divine.**

3 **Child of joy, our dearest treasure,
God's you are, from God you came.
Back to God we humbly give you:
live as one who bears Christ's name.**

Choral Response

Go, my children with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.

Our Common Life

Wes Avram

For those joining us online, you may make your donation by texting pinnaclepres to 833-245-8445 or
online at pinnaclepres.org/give

Offertory

Musical Offering

Recitative "*Comfort Ye My People*" and
Air "*Ev'ry Valley Shall Be Exalted*" from Messiah
Thomas Strawser, tenor • Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, piano

G.F. Handel

*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,
and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished,
that her iniquity is pardoned.
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God!"*

*Ev'ry valley shall be exalted,
and ev'ry mountain and hill made low,
the crooked straight and the rough places plain.*

* Doxology (*Old Hundredth*, no. 592)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Michael Hegeman

Sermon

Setting the Stage Pt. 1: Seeing

Michael Hegeman

Common Prayer, Lord's Prayer (unison)

Wes Avram

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

1 *Prepare the way, O Zion,
Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.*

3 *Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation
Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.*

2 *Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;
He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.*

The Charge

Michael Hegeman

Sending Music

Postlude in D Minor
Benjamin Sidoti, organ

Johann Christian Heinrich Rinck

* Please rise, lift your head, lift your arms, or lift your spirit.

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

3 A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[b]
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Notes of Interest

Ushers are Judy & J.D. Helms, Shelly & Tom McCahan, and Mary Upchurch; **Head Usher** is Robert Armstrong.

Student Greeters are Lia, Zadie, & Gwendolyn Jensen.

The Flowers are given by Nancy & James Lipscomb in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary.

About the Lord's Prayer: In response to our just completed worship emphasis on the Lord's Prayer, we are using the more recent translation of the Lord's Prayer from the *Presbyterian Book of Common Worship*, 2018 edition, in today's service. Worshippers may want to pray in versions or languages of their choosing. A variety of voices, words, and languages may join together in a shared voice of prayer.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following members & friends:

- *For Ann, in the ICU with pneumonia;*
- *For Anne, in treatment for cancer;*
- *For JoAnn, who had a stroke;*
- *For Judy D, diagnosed with stage 4 cervical cancer & starting chemo;*
- *For Joe, for a speedy recovery from hip replacement surgery;*
- *For our men and women in the military.*

Contact Lisa Boswell at prayer@pinnaclepres.org or call 480.585.9448 to add your request to the Pinnacle prayer list.