



# Welcome

**PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 10:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

## Prelude

*An Advent Prelude*

*Prepare the Way, O Zion and People, Look East*  
Marcia Sobek, flute • Ilona Kubiacyzk-Adler, organ

Charles Callahan  
arr. Robert J. Powell

## Words of Welcome

Wes Avram

## Lighting of the Candle of HOPE

The Bailey Family

*Prepare the Way of the Lord, No. 95*  
(first sung by a soloist, then by All)

**Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
And all people will see  
The salvation of our God.**

We light this first candle as a sign of our hope.  
Hope that God can meet us, even in the mess of our world.  
Hope that God still sees us, even when we feel we are lost in the rubble.  
Hope that God is still at work—and will make all things new.  
Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

As we light our first Advent candle,  
All: **we pray for holy hope.**  
Come now, O Prince of Hope.  
All: **Come, thou long-expected Jesus.**

## \*Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

No. 82

1 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.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,

now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

**Call to Confession**

Leah Quarles

**Common Confession and Assurance** (unison)

Leah Quarles

Lord, open unto us light for our darkness, courage for our fear, hope for our despair, peace for our turmoil, joy for our sorrow, strength for our weakness, wisdom for our confusion, forgiveness for our sin, love for our hates, thy Self for our self. Lord, Lord, open unto us. Now hear our silent prayers of confession. (silence)

**\*Congregational Response** (unison)

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

No. 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;  
in the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Leah Quarles

One: The peace of our Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

**Children's Message**

Leah Quarles

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Anna Laura Page

Youth and Adult Handbell Ensemble, Thomas Strawser, director

Children pre-K-5th Grade leave for Church School.  
6th-12th Grade Youth will remain in worship with their families.  
Nursery is available.

**Congregational Response** (unison)

No. 547

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**

Erik Khoobyarian

For those joining us online, you may make your donation by texting  
pinnaclepres to 833-245-8445 or online at [pinnaclepres.org/give-now](http://pinnaclepres.org/give-now)

**Offertory**

Musical Offering

*E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*  
Chancel Choir, Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, director

Paul Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him  
Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood  
That we might saved be.*

*Sing holy, holy to our Lord,  
The Lord, Almighty God.  
Who was and is and is to come;  
Sing holy, holy, Lord!*

*Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell there in,  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,  
For Christ is coming soon!*

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,  
For Christ will be their All!*

\*Doxology (*Regent Square*) (unison)

No. 143

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One:  
come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

Erik Khoobyarian

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

Jonathan Walton

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*What's Next?: The Underside of Hope*

Jonathan Walton

**Special Music**

*O Come Rejoicing* Polish Carol/arr. Martha Lynn Thompson  
Youth and Adult Handbell Ensemble, Thomas Strawser, director

**Common Prayer, Lord's Prayer** (unison)

Michael Hegeman

**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.**

\*Closing Hymn

*People, Look East*

No. 105

**1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Jonathan Walton

**\*Sending Music**

*Jubilate*  
Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler, organ

Fela Sowande

\*Please rise.

Today's Prayer of Confession is adapted from a prayer of Howard Thurman (1900-1981).

# Scripture

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## Mark 13:24-37

24 “But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;

25  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

### The Day and Hour Unknown

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

New Revised Standard Version Updated (NRSV)

## About Our Guest Preacher

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In the pulpit today is Jonathan Walton, the new President of Princeton Theological Seminary. He was most recently a Dean at the Wake Forest School of Divinity and also served as the Chaplain to Harvard University, and Plummer Professor at Harvard University. Jonathan holds both a PhD and an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is also a widely regarded author.

## Notes of Interest

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**Ushers** are Kaaren Gotwals, Michelle & Gary Holcomb, David LeMoine, Julie & Tom Oyan, and Ben White; **Head Usher** is Sherrie LeMoine.

**The Flowers** are given by Nancy Conover in memory of my husband, Hollis M. Conover, Jr.

## Prayer Requests

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Please pray for the following members & friends:

- For Kelli, support and good health;
- For my friend, Chi, and her dad, who is ill;
- For Jim, for a successful heart surgery;
- For the birth of our second child, for health & safety of mother & child;
- For Anita, for breast cancer treatment;
- For healing from cancer;
- For Mike R., as he enters hospice, fighting glioblastoma;
- For our healthcare workers, first responders, and local and federal government workers who are serving our communities;
- For the people of Haiti and Harmony Ministries;
- For our men and women in the military.

To add your prayer requests to the Pinnacle prayer list, please email [prayer@pinnaclepres.org](mailto:prayer@pinnaclepres.org) or call 480.585.9448.

If you would like to join our prayer request email list to receive a weekly list of people needing your prayers and monthly prayer guidelines, please send your name and email to [prayer@pinnaclepres.org](mailto:prayer@pinnaclepres.org).

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### PINNACLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25150 N. Pima Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85255 | 480-585-9448 | [pinnaclepres.org](http://pinnaclepres.org)