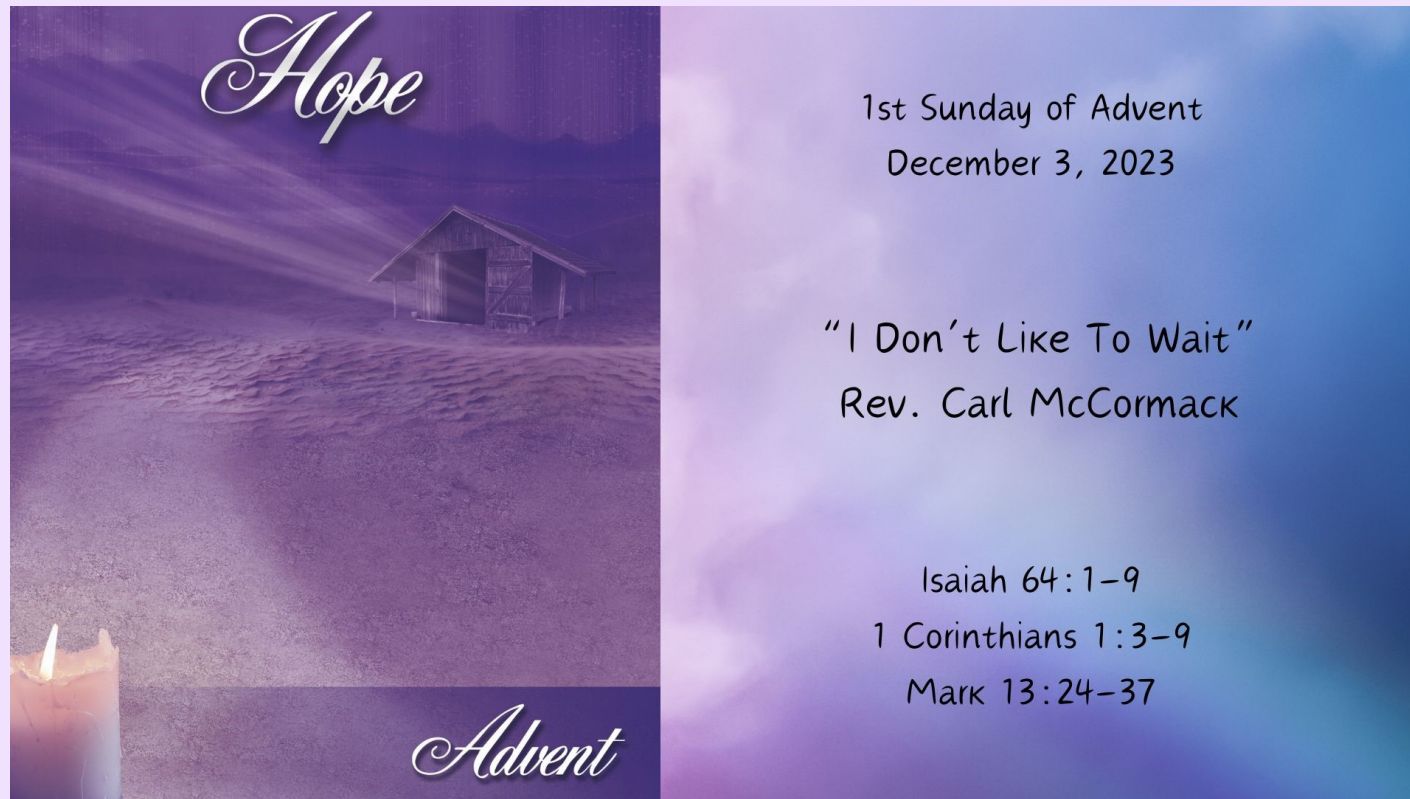


PARK HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CONGREGATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023

3520 JFK Blvd. North Little Rock, AR 72116

501-753-9533; parkhillpres@gmail.com

Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

WORSHIP NOTES

Order of Worship

Our order of worship is Reformed and follows centuries of tradition. These are some brief explanations of the various parts of Reformed Worship.

The Advent Candle

Lighting the Advent Candle is a tradition that helps the worshiping community focus on the promise of God while together we wait for the coming of the Messiah.

Song of Praise

Together we express vocally our praise and thanksgiving to the God of Glory.

Prayer of Confession

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence. Nevertheless we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition.

Assurance of Pardon

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. Hearing the words of assurance spoken from the font connects our confession with the grace and cleansing of Baptism, and God's call to a new way of life in Christ.

Gloria Patri

"Glory to the Father!" This is our response of praise for being forgiven.

We Gather At God's Invitation

Welcome & Announcements

Carleton Philbrick

Welcome from the Pastor

Prelude

Jo Murry

Lighting the Advent Candle (Dana & Jennie Pierce Family)

*Opening Prayer of Advent

Dear God, our world is in darkness. We need the light of peace and love to shine in our world. Help us to prepare our lives and our homes to receive the One who said, "I am the light of the world." We pray in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Opening Song of Joy #82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Matt Butler

Call to Confession

Carleton Philbrick

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Carleton Philbrick

God of light, once again we approach the season of Advent unprepared. We are not prepared for your coming; we are too busy with our own preparations for the season. We are exhausted trying to do everything ourselves, and find it hard to stay awake and watch for you. Like your people of old, we do not call upon your name, except to blame you for our situation, or just to complain. Yet, you are our maker, and we are the work of your hands. Forgive us and restore us. Illumine our lives, that we may be witnesses to your faithfulness. Hear us as we silently confess the sins we try to keep hidden from you...

Assurance of Pardon (From Romans 8:35 & 2 Corinthians 5:17)
Rev. Carl McCormack

Friends, proclaim with me the glorious news of the gospel...

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

#581

Matt Butler

Passing the Peace

Our sharing the peace with one another is a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

Prayer for Illumination

A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower our reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God’s Word.

Scripture & Sermon

The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, who “... became flesh and lived among us...” The role of the worshiper is to listen prayerfully, actively, and attentively to the Word that is read and proclaimed.

*Sharing the *Peace of Christ*

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Carleton Philbrick

Eternal God, by your Holy Spirit and through these prophetic writings, reveal to us the mystery of the ages, teach us to be faithful to your will, and strengthen us according to the gospel of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 64:1-9 Carleton Philbrick

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the Nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider we are all your people.

Second Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Carleton Philbrick

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Affirmation of Faith

Responding to the Word proclaimed, we affirm our faith in the holy, triune God..

Gospel Reading Mark 13:24-37 Rev. Carl McCormack

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon “I Don’t Like To Wait” Rev. Carl McCormack

*Affirmation of Faith (written by Nathan Nettleton, and his Laughingbird website)

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all. We believe in Jesus the Christ - God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn who emerges as the herald of hope – God’s laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful. We believe in the coming

Offering & Doxology Christian life is an offering of one’s self to God. As those who have been claimed and set free by his grace, we respond with gratitude, offering him our lives, our spiritual gifts, and our material goods, followed with a song of praise.	reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world’s deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God’s desire. For the coming of that day, on this day we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!
	*Song of Advent Season #44 “Like A Mother Who Has Borne Us” Jo Murry
	*Prayers of the People
	Stewardship Moment
	Offering/Offertory Jo Murry
	*Doxology #606 Matt Butler
	*Prayer of Dedication
	Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper Invitation to the Table Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & Lord’s Prayer O Lord our God, how great is your love and how wonderful is your name! ... In hope we sing your praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. We give thanks that you sent Jesus to be born and live among us... Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again. Pour out your Holy Spirit, O Lord, upon these gifts of bread and wine...Help us to live in peace and joy until Christ comes again. Amen. 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.

Charge & Benediction We are blessed in order to be a blessing to others. The charge calls the church to go forth as agents of God’s mission in the world.	Words of Institution
	Sharing the Bread and the Cup Jo Murry
	Prayer After Communion
	*Closing Song of Dedication #106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion” Matt Butler
	Charge & Benediction
	Postlude Matt Butler
	Assisting in Worship: Pastor Carl McCormick Carleton Philbrick, as Liturgist Cindy Witherspoon-Allen, as Greeter Karene Jones & Dale , Ushers Karene Jones, Kaye & Bill Lowe, Becky Webster, Communion Servers Jo Murry, as Pianist Matt Butler, Organist

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

First Sunday of Advent—Communion Sunday December 3, 2023

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

Monday, December 4, 2023

10:30am—Monday Morning Prayer Group—Conference Room

6:30pm—AR Scottish Dance Society

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

7pm Woodworkers—Steen Hall

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

11:30am—Book Club Luncheon at Sarah Womble's House

4:30—Handbell Choir

Second Sunday of Advent—December 10, 2023

9:45am—Pastor Carl—the Bible in 90 Days—Parlor

11am—Worship Service—Pastor Carl McCormack

PRAYER NOTES—

Recent Members: Diana McCray, Robert (Bob) Miller, Elizabeth Pollard,

Continued Prayers: Patt Bond, Pat Clark, Donna Ellis, Bill Jones, Ginny Jones, Jesse Macom-Teague, Grady Nixon, Wendell Phillips,

Prayers For Friends Of The Church: Judy Barfield, Air Force SMSGT Scott Burris (Phil & Liz Terrell's son, while he is deployed to Kuwait for 6 months), Dana Chadwick, Lynn Chadwick, Charles Clark, Darnell Clark, Jeff Connor, Maisie Frisby (Howdy & Debbie Frisby's granddaughter), Susan Gibbes; Constance Hughes, Travis Kasper, Stephanie Phillips, Dee Pizzalato (Bill Bond's niece), Ralph Pollard (Barbara Biedenharn's brother), Jennifer Willen,

Prayers For Those In Home Confinement: John Atterbury, Ann Cother, Bunn Falls (Johnson County Health & Rehab), Clarksville, Ann McCollum, Jack McCollum, Steve Pollard (AR State VA Home), David Rennie, Ann Woods.

Prayers For Those In Grief: For those who are still mourning the loss of a loved one.

Please pray for the family of Valerie Belden who passed away recently. Her funeral will be December 6th at 3pm, at First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville.

*Please contact the church office if you need someone placed on or taken off the prayer notes. Thank you.