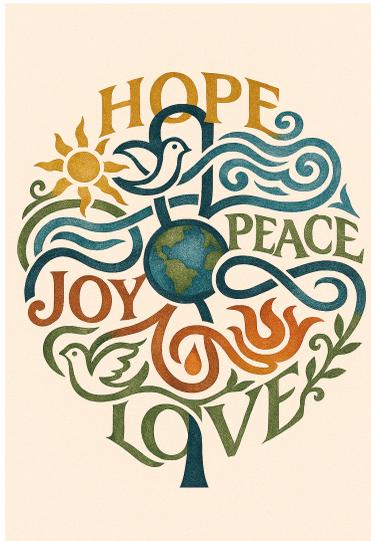


**A Service of Worship
of the Presbytery of Santa Fe
at Second Presbyterian Church
Albuquerque, New Mexico
December 10, 2025
6:00 p.m.**



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING THROUGH MUSIC

Prepare the Way of the Lord.
Prepare the Way of the Lord,
and all people shall see
the salvation of our God

(Repeat)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: During this Advent season, we gather here to be inspired as heralds of glad tidings so that we might be ready for the Messiah's coming (Isaiah 40:9).
- People: **We listen for God's word so that we may learn God's ways and walk in God's paths (Isaiah 2:3).**
- Leader: During Advent, we look forward to the day when God's endless peace is manifested in every corner of the earth (Isaiah 9:7).
- People: **We anticipate the day when God's kingdom will be established, and wolves will lie down with lambs (Isaiah 11:6), and swords will be refashioned into plowshares (Isaiah 2:4).**
- Leader: With loving hearts and serving hands, we await the day when the sun of righteousness will dawn upon us with healing in its wings (Malachi 4:2).
- People: **May our worship unite us in working for the day when the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:9).**

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING (unison)

Eternal God, who created the Pleiades and Orion,
not only do the heavens tell of Your glory,
but You also bring the dawn into our darkness
so that the light of Your love would shine on every land.

As we gather on this Advent evening,
magnify within us the bright beams of kindness and compassion,
so that we may work for peace and justice in our world.

Enlighten us with Your truth and wisdom,
so that the divisions and inequalities that scar us would disappear;
and open our eyes to see the radiance of Your life-giving love,
the reality of Your life-renewing grace,
and the wonder of Your life-changing word,
for we ask these things in the name of the One who brings light and life
to all people, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Ven, Jesús Muy Esperado

El Himnario, #64

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

God of grace, Savior of the sinful, Light for the lost, although Your prophetic messengers have called us to join them in preparing Your way, we confess that we have not been faithful in sharing the good news.

Rather than comforting Your people, we have sought our own comfort.

Rather than following Your word, we have pursued our own way.

Rather than living in grace, we have too often engaged in aggression.

Forgive us, Lord, for those occasions when we have been too quick to judge, believing ourselves to be right and others wrong. Redeem us from our sin, and fill us with steadfast love and faithfulness, so that we may embody, promote, and reveal the fullness of life that is revealed through the One who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. (Silent)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (adapted from 1 Corinthians 1:7-9)

Leader: As we await the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, God will strengthen us to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **God is faithful, and God has called us into the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

*SHARING SIGNS OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Through God's great faithfulness, we have been embraced with love and blessed with peace. And because we are called to share these gifts of God with others, let us as God's people greet one another with the peace of Christ.

*CANTICLE

He Came Down

Glory to God, #137

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mystery and music, Lord of holiness and harmony,
in the middle of this busy time of the year,
quiet our hearts and minds
so that our ears may be tuned to hear Your word.

Speak to us through the lyrics of Your love revealed in Scripture,
so that in hearing what You say to us,

we may be prepared to learn from, and live by, the Word who became flesh
and lived among us,
for we ask it in the name of the One to whom the choirs of angels sing,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING FROM THE WORD

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

- ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD *A Protest Song with Life-Changing Lyrics*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

On the evening of November 9, 1938, (the night remembered in Nazi Germany as Kristallnacht), Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote the date in his Bible next to Psalm 74:8b — “They are burning all the houses of God in the land.” Then he drew a long black line along the margin of verse 9 to emphasize the words — “We are given no signs from God; no prophets are left, and none of us knows how long this will be.”

REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD

The congregation is invited to offer any thoughts or share any questions concerning today’s proclamation.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

adapted from *SALT Project*

**As Christians, we believe in a God who creates all things —
 people, religions, languages, beauty, and every color in the rainbow.**
**As Christians, we believe in a God who becomes flesh, is born in a stable, a refugee
 with nowhere to lay his head.**
**As Christians, we believe in a God who fills us with the courage to serve our fellow
 human beings, to feed the hungry, and to love the foreigner because we are
 descendants of the Israelites who were foreigners in the land of Egypt.**
This is who we are as Christians:
**people created to love,
 to welcome the stranger,**

**and to walk, hand-in-hand with all God’s people,
 through God’s starry night and into the dawn.**

PALINDROME PRAYER AND SONG

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
 And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight and my weakness you did not spurn
 So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn!*

O Lord, the world is empty of love and goodwill.
 we categorically refuse to believe
 that all of us can accept each other;
 for we are certain
 greed and aggression, violence and vitriol, reign in our country.
 It is explicitly not true that
 Advent’s way of peace is real.
 Nothing in this world will change.
 We do not believe that
 Your word, O Lord, can shape the policies of our government.
 there are no standards of goodness and truth, as
 it is impossible to believe that
 faith, hope, and love will never fade.
 We are convinced
 that justice and righteousness cannot endure.
 It is a lie
 But the world is about to turn, for . . .

*Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
 you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn!*

The way of the world can never be changed.
So let's not delude ourselves by believing, especially at Advent, that
things can be different, and Your hope, O Lord, always prevails,
because truly, inevitably,
it's too much of a negative and divisive world,
and thus let's not deceive ourselves by saying that
You, O Lord, will help us create a future based on love
for we assert that
we are incapable of magnifying the surge of peace amid our conflicts,
and not all the words of human language will persuade us that
this pervasive darkness will ultimately yield to Your Advent light

But the world is about to turn, for . . .

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn!*

We are imprisoned by despair, O Lord
So forbid us from thinking that
we can live in Advent's light of hope and peace
since at the end of the day
we see only inequity and injustice in our land,
and we wouldn't even dare to suggest that
our faith is being strengthened for such a time as this
because no matter what
we are trapped in a cycle of apathy and indifference,
and we will never come to believe that
You have placed the power for change within us.
Alas, O Lord, even in these dark circumstances
Are we as faithless as our doubts proclaim?

But the world is about to turn, for . . .

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.*

*This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn!*

God of the forgiven past and the new future, who provides a way in the wilderness, a trail
through any tragedy, and a course through any chaos,
during this Advent season, open our eyes to all that surrounds us;
open our ears to Your whispers;
and open our hands to Your hurting world.
Bless us with non-violent hearts and hopeful and compassionate spirits;
bind us together when culture, politics, or religion tears us apart;
and grant us tolerance and understanding as we seek to live as Your faithful
disciples at every moment of our lives,
so that we may confront the injustices in our world as we strive for peace
across the globe,
for we ask it in the name of Emmanuel, God-with-us, and pray the prayer
that He taught us, saying . . .

**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.**

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Let us consider how we may offer all that we have and all that we are to Christ's
service, so that we may praise God not just with our words, but with our whole lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Glory to God, #106

*BENEDICTION