



Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
Worship begins at 11 a.m.



The Baptist in Prison by Giusto de' Menabuoi

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jasiel Hernández García

Ringling of the Bell

As the tower bell rings, may it call out to the city and the world that Central Presbyterian Church is worshipping God.



When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.
Please silence your phones.

Children of God, do you see what I see?

Yes! The light of God has reached all the corners of the earth.

The wilderness has become a place of joy! The parched land is now blooming!

Streams of water are bringing new life to the desert!

Yes! We see the joy of the Lord upon us. God has not abandoned us.

Therefore, we will be strong! Therefore, we shall have no fear!

God has shown us the path we must follow. The joy of the Lord will lead the way.

We will sing and dance and shout for joy!

Yes! God is making all things new. Let us rejoice in the light of God!

Hymn 85, Stanza 3

TIF IN VELDELE

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (see Hymn Insert)

VENI EMMANUEL

William H. Mathis

Hymn Concertato for Bells, Flute, Oboe, Piano, Liturgist Congregation

(Please remain seated until Stanza 7)

✠ Call to Confession

Rev. John M. Semmes

✠ Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. Still, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy. Forgive us

for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

✠ Assurance of Pardon

✠ Passing of the Peace

✠ Hymn 447
(Please sing twice.)

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

**We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.**

During the response hymn, children are invited to come forward for A Time With Children.

Proclaiming the Word

A Time with Children

Samuel Phillips

Prayer for Illumination

Philip Covin

First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Second Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

Rev. Jasiel Hernández García

Sermon

“Are You the *One*?”

Silence and Stillness

Responding to the Word



An Advent Statement of Faith

Rev. John M. Semmes

FROM A DECLARATION OF FAITH

We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God. We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule. But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.

Offertory Sentence

Music at the Offertory

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Michael John Trotta

Chancel Choir; Chris Sciarrone, percussion

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

O come, O come, the “I am” that is with us; break the bond of the captive people who mourn in exile, deprived of the incarnation of the Father. Rejoice! Rejoice! The great “I am” will be born for you. O come, gatherer of all nations; come to make all whole, to save your servants from their separateness. Who will come? “I will come!” O come, light of life (Morning Star) to shine on us by your coming. Dispel the clouds of night, drive away the shadows of death.

(18th-century Latin hymn, 9th-century origin)



At the Presentation

Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.
Amen.**

✠ Prayer of Dedication

Rev. John M. Semmes

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Traditional: Inclusive Language

**Beloved parent who is in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

✠ Hymn 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

✠ Benediction

Rev. Jasiel Hernández García

Closing Voluntary

Lift Up Your Heads

arr. Donald Busarow

The congregation is invited to be seated for the Closing Voluntary.

Participating in Worship Today

Chris Sciarrone, Tower Bell Ringer
The Palmer Family, Lighting of the Advent Candles
Phillip Covin, Lector
Chancel Choir
Geneva Bell Choir
Chris Sciarrone, Percussion
Barbara Cook, Oboe
Erica Pirtle, Flute
Kathy McCloud, Narrator
Jennifer Sengin, Soloist

Worship Staff

The Rev. John M. Semmes,
Interim Pastor and Head of Staff
The Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,
Associate Pastor for Engagement and Mission
The Rev. P. C. (Buddy) Enniss, Pastor Emeritus
Susan Landrum, Interim Director of Youth
Sam Phillips, Interim Director for Family Ministry
Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Director of Musical Arts
Vicki Fey, Organist/Music Associate

Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus
Thomas Dixon, Music Intern
Dennis Lau, Music Intern

Worship Production Staff

Mark Wallace Maguire,
Director of Communications
Dean Hammond,
Volunteer Technology Director
Bo Brewer, Audio Engineer
Patrick Maguire, Video Assistant
Kurt Vogel, A/V Assistant

Hospitality Team

Beth Grashof
Ben Evans
Bettie Hardin
Em McNair
Kathy Harben
Mike Sizemore