

Presbyterian Church in Orland Park
Sunday, November 30, 2025
1st Sunday of Advent

For those with children, be assured that noises and wiggling are signs of a church that is alive and growing; your entire family is always welcome in worship.

Youth are invited to stay for worship. Next week, JAM will resume.

Nursery care is provided all morning.

Fellowship immediately follows the service.

The congregation speaks words that are in bold during the service, except for the Call to Worship, where the youth and children's parts are bold.

*Please rise in body or spirit.

Centering Thought: "Hope does not need to silence the rumblings of crisis to be hope." -Walter Brueggemann

Please enter quietly so that you and others may reflectively prepare to worship God.
This also helps with our online presence. Thank you.

Gather

Prelude

Dan Marcotte

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Joy Smith

We are grateful to be worshiping with you today and would love to know you are here.

Please take a moment to fill out the information form.

Those of you online, please send us a greeting!

Call to Worship

PCOP Youth

Today we enter the season of Advent—a time to wait, to wonder, and to get our hearts ready for Jesus.

We come with hope, trusting that God is already at work in our world.

When life feels confusing or heavy, God's light still breaks through.

God's hope shows up in small moments, in kind words, and in unexpected places.

Advent reminds us that even in the longest nights, God's promise is steady and strong.

We lean into that promise. We look for signs of hope.

So today we gather as one community—young and old—ready to listen for God's voice and ready to welcome God's love.

Help us, God, to wait with hope, to watch with hope, and to live with hope.

Come, let us worship the One who brings light into every darkness.

All: We worship with hope. Amen.

1st Advent Candle for Hope

Lynn Howard
Susan Klyasheff
Linda Kavios

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope...
(*Light the first candle in Advent wreath.*)

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

Congregation:

Holy One, we confess that waiting wears us down. Our patience thins, our vision clouds, and sometimes our hope is only a faint ember. Yet you do not despise small beginnings; you breathe on our weakness with your Spirit, kindling the flame of faith we thought was gone. Renew us, O Lord, as we learn to wait in you. Amen.

Hymn **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1,2,3)**

[#88](#)

Call to Confession

Ebenezer Oben

In this season of waiting, as we get ready for Jesus to come close, we want to draw nearer to God—our comfort, our guide, our hope.

But sometimes we stumble. Sometimes our choices get in the way of the life God wants for us. So let's take a moment to be honest with God and with ourselves. Let us pray in silence, trusting that God meets us with love.

Silent Prayers

Prayer of Confession

Ebenezer Oben

Ebenezer: God of Hope, we come to you in this season of waiting.
ring your hope to our hearts, O God.

Sometimes we feel worried, angry, or unsure about the future.

Ebenezer: Shine your hope in our darkness.

We admit that when we feel stressed, we hurt others with our words or actions.

Ebenezer: Forgive us, God. Fill us with hope.

We get caught up in wanting more, keeping more, and thinking only of ourselves.

Ebenezer: Forgive us. Teach us to share hope with others.

Advent reminds us that even when we can't see it, your light is growing.

Ebenezer: Help us look for signs of hope.

Mend our hearts, comfort our spirits, and guide our steps.

Ebenezer: Make us people of hope, ready to welcome you.

Come to us again, Loving God.

All: Come with hope. Come with love. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastor Joy Smith

(Baptismal water reminds us of God's good creation and God's covenant of grace. The prophets call for justice to flow like water, and Jesus offers us living water. As we pour this water, let its sound remind us of God's cleansing grace and forgiveness.)

***Response "O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 4) #21**
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our
sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas
angels, the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Listen

Children's Message

Pastor Joy Smith

(Children and youth are invited to stay for worship. Childcare is provided.)

Prayer of Illumination

Ebenezer Oben

God of Hope, As we begin this season of Advent, open our hearts and minds to your light. In a world that feels busy and noisy, help us slow down and listen. Let your Word shine in us like the first candle we light today— small, but bright enough to remind us that hope is on the way. Guide us, teach us, and help us see what you need us to hear this morning. Amen.

The Words of the Prophet Isaiah 2: 1-5

Ebenezer Oben

In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will go and say, "Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God so that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in God's paths." God will send instructions from Jerusalem. God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools.

Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the Lord's light.

The Gospel**Matthew 24:36, 42–44**

Pastor Joy Smith

"But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows. Therefore, stay alert! You don't know what day the Lord is coming. But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn't allow the thief to break into his house. Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One will come at a time you don't know."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.**Sermon****"Live Into Hope"**

Pastor Joy Smith

Hymn**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"****#133****Joys and Concerns**

Pastor Joy Smith

(You may share your joys and concerns aloud or write them on the blue card. Please give them to Pastor Joy or Susan, so that we can include them in the Prayers of the People.)

Prayers of the People

Pastor Joy Smith

God of Hope, we come to you waiting, watching, and trusting.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

For a world that feels tired and troubled—shine your light and remind us that hope is stronger than fear.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

For people who feel worried, sad, or alone— wrap them in your comfort and help them feel your nearness.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

For our families, our friends, and our schools— fill our days with patience, courage, and kindness.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick or hurting— bring healing, strength, and peace.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

For our church— help us be a community where hope can grow in every heart.

God of Hope, hear our prayer.

And for us— open our eyes to look for hope, open our hands to share hope, and open our hearts to live your hope. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Thanks

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Joy Smith

People of God, this is the season of hope—hope that breaks into weary places, hope that whispers that a different world is possible. As we bring our gifts today, may they become signs of that hope: bread for the hungry, welcome for the stranger, light for those sitting in shadows. Let us offer what we have and who we are to the God who is still making all things new.



Gifts of Tithes & Offerings

Your generosity enables PCOP to fulfill God's calling in our community. You may give by placing your offering in the vestibule mail box, the small church in the sanctuary, mailing it, or using the QR code to give online: pcorlandpark.org/giving

***Doxology**

#606

Praise God for gifts of hope and peace

Praise God for gifts of joy and love

Praise God for sending Christ to dwell

On earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Joy Smith

God of hope, take these gifts and take our lives, and use them to kindle light in the shadows around us. Where there is weariness, bring rest.

Where there is waiting, bring courage. Where there is despair, bring your steady promise. Bless what we offer today, that it may become signs of your coming kingdom—hope made real in the world. Amen.

Scatter in Peace***Closing Hymn****“Live into Hope” (vs. 1,2,3)****[#137](#)*****Sending**

Pastor Joy Smith

Friends, Advent begins with a promise: the light is coming, and the darkness cannot overcome it. So go now into the world as people who trust that promise.

Let us go as seekers of God’s new thing— not just waiting for hope, but looking for it, nurturing it, and living in ways that help it take root.

Encourage one another.

Listen deeply to the stories of our neighbors.

Hold space for those who are grieving, and celebrate signs of joy wherever they appear.

Let our kindness be courageous, and let our hope be contagious.

And as we go, may the God who meets us in the waiting, whose coming we prepare to celebrate, and the Spirit who breathes hope into our weary places.

***Benediction**

Pastor Joy Smith

Response “Go My Children, with My Blessings (vs. 1)*[#547](#)*****Postlude**

Dan Marcotte

Worship Team

PCOP Youth
Doug Mark, Technology
Chris Brugess, A/V Technician
Bruce and Linda Lane, Fellowship
Ebenezer Oben, Liturgist
Susan Klyasheff, Usher
Bob and Cheri Applegate, Greeters
Linda and Bruce Lane, Fellowship
Linda Kavois, Lynn Howard, Susan Klyshaff, 1st Advent Candle
Dan Marcotte, Director of Music
Bella Rivera, Childcare Provider
Pastor Joy Smith

Announcements

Today! Sunday, November 30th Kemmerer Gifts Due today!

Emergency Call for Food Donations from the Jones Center!

“With the SNAP benefits being uncertain, we’re already seeing more individuals and families reaching out for assistance. Our food pantry is running low, and we’re doing our best to provide for both emergency walk-ins and our regular clients who come every Tuesday. To keep up with the growing demand, we’re especially in need of non-perishable, non-expired food items. This is the list of the items we need most:

Peanut Butter; Soup; Spaghetti; Spaghetti Sauce; Spam; Tuna; Canned Beans; Cereal; Jelly; Muffins; Noodles; Oatmeal; Pork & Beans

Bonus Items: Soap; Toilet Paper; Tooth Brushes; Tooth Paste

Your willingness to help makes such a difference for the families we serve. Together, we can help neighbors in need and strengthen our community—we hope you will be a part of that effort.”

Joy Offering Each year during the Advent and Christmas season the Joy Offering helps retired workers facing critical needs. It also helps provide opportunities for students to attend Presbyterian schools and colleges. More information will be coming soon.

Monday, December 1st @ 7p Committee and Session Budget Meeting

Tuesday, December 2nd @ 6:30p Southwest Community Concert Band practice

Every Wednesday, December 3rd @ 10:30a Bible Study: “An Unlikely Advent by Rachel Billups”

Saturday, December 6th 9a-11a The Annual Breakfast With Santa at the Jones Center. Volunteers are encouraged to join in the fun! See Sign Up List in the FH

Sunday, December 7th The Second Sunday of Advent and Communion

Following the service is the **Annual Advent Festivities for all ages!** Come and create your own family Advent Wreath, Gingerbread House, Christmas Cookies. And have lunch! See insert and make your reservation today.

3:00p Elena Kolganova Voice Students' Concert - you are all invited!

Monday, December 8th 6p Garden Club Christmas Party - PCOP

Monday, December 8th AA @ 7p

Tuesday, December 9th SWCCB @ 6:30p and YFM @7:30p (Zoom)

Thursday, December 11th Involvement @ 11:00a and Book Club@ 12:30p

Sunday, Dec 14th The Third Sunday of Advent **Come and Be Dazzled! Our Annual Youth Christmas Palooza!** Written, directed and produced by Dan Marcotte.

Tuesday, Dec. 16th Men's Christmas Breakfast @ 8:30am Blueberry Hill Cafe (reservations- Dennis Fulton)

Wednesday, Dec. 17th @ 6:00pm The Longest Night Service