

**Greeters** *Diana Davis, Sue Wheeler*  
**Ushers** *Barbara Riehl, Nancy Noel, David Noel*  
**Liturgist** *Dan Rhea*  
**Music** *Bob Eubanks, Nancy Wells, George Hill, Allison Carroll, FCPC Choral Ensemble*  
**Interim Pastor** *Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

### **Announcements**

**The Nativity Pageant of Knoxville**, at Knoxville Civic Coliseum, free admission

"It is time for the story to be told"  
3:00pm - Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
3:00pm - Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm - Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

**Renew. Reconnect. Reimagine. Recreate.** As we embark on our 2nd century in service to the congregants of Fountain City Presbyterian Church and the members of the Fountain City community, we find ourselves at a time of transition and one of incredible opportunity. The theme for this year's campaign is Renew. Reconnect. Reimagine. Recreate. We feel that this theme captures the excitement of the opportunity laid before us, and challenges us to rise to the occasion with the creativity, openness, and positive attitude necessary to achieve the needs of the moment. **Please complete and return your pledge card** to the church by either placing it in an offering plate, returning it to the church office, or completing the online form available through the QR code **by December 10th**. Please prayerfully consider your contribution to the general fund, knowing that it will not only help fund the creative vision of the future, but also support the congregational and pastoral care, worship services, and missions we have come to know and love as part of Fountain City Presbyterian Church.

**Yuletide Tales and Treats at WOW, December 6th!** Dinner will be served at 5:30pm, \$10 per person with a \$30 max per family. Please RSVP for dinner on the website under events or by emailing the office. This week you will be able to pay ahead of time for dinner via the website!

**Second Friday Presbyterians** will meet at Barrelhouse by Gypsy Circus on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm!

**Choir Cantata**, please join us next Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> for our Choir Christmas Cantata during our normal 10:30am worship time.



**First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023**

### **Prelude**

### **Word of Welcome**

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Leader: Christ is coming!

**All: We will keep awake!**

Leader: Christ is coming!

**All: We will be ready!**

Leader: Christ is coming!

**All: He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.**

Leader: Praise be to God! We will prepare.

*Maggie, April, and Ben Lamb*

### **Congregation**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel**

*Dan Rhea*

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: I will give thanks to You LORD among the peoples

**All: I will make music to You among the nations**

Leader: Because Your steadfast love is higher than the heavens

**All: And Your faithfulness reaches the clouds**

### **\*Hymn #92 Oh How I Love Jesus**

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain:

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,  
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;  
it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

It tells me what my Father hath in store for every day  
and, tho' I tread a darksome path, Yields sunshine all the way. [Refrain]

It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;  
who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below. [Refrain]

### **Ritual of Friendship**

*Members and Guests – Please sign and pass the friendship register  
located on the center aisle under the pew in front*

*Dan Rhea*

### ***Call to Confession***

Leader: “We have sinned, right along with our ancestors. We’ve done what is wrong, we’ve acted wickedly” (Psalm 106:6).  
Let’s go to God and make it right.

*Dan Rhea*

### ***Prayer of Confession***

**All: Lord, sometimes we have difficulty with facts. By our standards we’re not that bad. By Your standards we might come up short. So we have a choice then, and too often we prefer standards other than Yours. That choice might leave us feeling sort of better but not really. We want to know Your healing, Your salvation, Your steadfast love, not some cheap fake version. Help us come to terms with who we are apart from Jesus, so we can truly experience who we are in Him. Forgive us and help us Lord, for we ask in Jesus’ Name, AMEN.**

*Dan Rhea*

*(Time for Silent Confession)*

### ***Assurance of Pardon***

Leader: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, God’s Son, cleanses us from all our sin.

*Dan Rhea*

### ***\*Gloria Patri***

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.***

### ***\*Passing the Peace***

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all  
**All: And also with you**

*Dan Rhea*

### ***Anthem Advent Cry***

Veni, veni, Redemptor. Veni, veni, Redemptor.  
Peace will come on the wings of a promise.  
Hope will come like the morning's first call.  
Joy will come on the winds of the Spirit.  
Love will come, Love will come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Veni, veni, Redemptor. Veni, veni, Redemptor.  
Peace will come on the wings of a angels.  
Hope will come like the song in the night.  
Joy will blossom like roses in springtime.  
Love will come, Love will come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Veni, veni, Redemptor. Veni, veni, Redemptor.  
Redemptor. Come Lord Jesus, come.  
O come. O come. O come. O come.

*Allison Carroll, solo*

### ***Prayer of Illumination***

#### ***Scripture Reading Ruth 1:11-19***

#### ***Sermon Undeserved Commitment***

#### ***\*Hymn #654 Change My Heart, O God***

Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like You.  
You are the Potter, I am the clay;  
Mold me and make me, This is what I pray  
Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true;  
Change my heart, O God, May I be like You

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

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### ***The Invitation***

### ***Holy Communion***

### ***Words of Institution***

### ***Serving of the Bread and Cup***

### ***Prayer after Communion & The Lord’s Prayer***

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

**All: 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**

### ***Call for Offering***

Leader: Let’s thank God for this church with our tithes and offerings.

*Dan Rhea*

### ***Offertory***

#### ***\*Doxology***

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost**

#### ***\*Prayer of Dedication***

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

#### ***\*Hymn #670 Make Me a Blessing***

Out in the high-ways and by-ways of life,  
Many are weary and sad;  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,  
Making the sorrowing glad.

Chorus;

Make me a blessing, Make me a blessing  
Out of my life May Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,  
Make me a blessing to someone today.

Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love,  
Tell of His pow’r to forgive;  
Others will trust Him if only you prove  
True every moment you live; [Chorus]

Give as 'twas given to you in your need,  
Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,  
Unto your mission be true. [Chorus]

#### ***\*Charge and Benediction***

*Rev. Dr. Carl Grosse*

#### ***\*Congregational Benediction***

**Make us one, Lord, make us one;  
Holy Spirit, make us one.  
Let your love flow so the world will know  
we are one in you**

### ***Postlude***