



ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE

Carl Braden

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

INTROIT

"O Come, Emmanuel"

Chancel Choir

◆ **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

When will God's promise be fulfilled?

The days are surely coming.

When we will be saved?

The days are surely coming.

How will we know the signs to take place?

The days are surely coming

**when a branch from David shall come forth
to execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

What shall it be called?

The Lord is our righteousness.

◆ **HYMN NO. 88**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Congregation

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

In this season, so many voices wish to claim our attention, our time, and our dollars. At this font one Voice claims our whole lives: soul, body, heart, and mind. In humility, let us confess our faults to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev Shelley Craig

Coming Christ,

you may not find us as you hoped.

We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.

We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.

We are numb to inconvenient truths.

Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.

Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.

Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.

Sober our lives addicted to privilege.

Show us the signs of your coming,

that we may stand before you, the Son of Man,

in whose name we pray.

Silently pray your personal prayers of Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Rev Shelley Craig

As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the salvation of God, poured out for the world in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

◆ **RESPONSE HYMN NO. 581**

"Glory Be to the Father"

Congregation

✦ **PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you!

Rev Shelley Craig

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

The world says, "All is lost."

God says, "All is loved."

The darkness says, "The light is dying."

The light says, "The fire is catching."

Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears."

Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."

As we light our first Advent candle,

we pray for holy hope of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Hope.

The Williams Family
George, Mazie and Kai

RESPONSE HYMN NO. 90

"Wait for the Lord" (refrain)

Congregation

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Emmanuel, come; **O come and save us.**

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

HYMN NO. 188

"Jesus Loves Me!" (vs 1)

Congregation

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

**Gracious God, Be the peace that I seek, the love that I give, the hope that I carry,
the light that I walk in, and the dream of this new day. This is my prayer. Amen**

Rev Shelley Craig

GOD'S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

Allan Griffin

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 25:1-10 (NRSV)

Allan Griffin

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust;

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

**Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for your goodness' sake, O Lord!

Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

**All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (NRSV)

Allan Griffin

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

After the readings:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ANTHEM***“We Wait For Thee”*

Chancel Choir

SERMON*“Waiting in Hope”*

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

◆AFFIRMATION OF FAITH*“The Nicene Creed”*

Lead by Rev Shelley Craig

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

◆HYMN NO. 828*“More Love to Thee, O Christ”*

Congregation

GOD’S PEOPLE GIVE THANKS**◆INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Rev Shelley Craig

OFFERTORY

Carl Braden

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev Dr. Richard Kleiman

◆DOXOLOGY

Congregation

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

Rev Shelley Craig

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God...

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Richard Kleiman

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

◆HYMN NO. 83

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Congregation

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Congregation

Go out into the world in peace; Have courage; hold on to what is good; Return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; Support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

◆CLOSING RESPONSE HYMN NO. 100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (refrain)

Congregation

POSTLUDE

Carl Braden

◆All who are able may stand

Regular print indicates Leader

Bold print indicates Congregation participation

Narthex News

Faith Formation

- Doug Kennard's class will study what can be known about the historical Jesus largely by interacting with Doug Kennard's book: "*Messiah Jesus*." Meeting in the library at 9:15 am.
 - Pastor Shelley's hybrid class will not meet Sunday, November 28 and Sunday, December 5
 - Children, not yet in Kindergarten, meet in the nursery classroom at 9:20 am. Nursery is not available during worship time.
 - Children, grades K-5, meet in the orange classroom with Lisa Stacy at 9:30 am.
 - Youth, grades 6 – 12, will not meet Sunday, November 28.
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BoxCast Viewers ... BoxCast has just released an embedded chat feature that is much more user-friendly than Chatango (the third-party app we've been using). Depending on your viewing device, BoxCast Chat will be displayed to the right of the broadcast video or below it. Create a user name, agree to the terms, and join the Chat.

Signups available in the narthex: Greeters, Ushers, Cookie providers, and reserve your poinsettias. Share your smiling face to folks entering and attending worship and provide a token of our fellowship by way of a sweet treat.

The Seafarers gift boxes lift the spirit of seafarers while they are away from their families and confined in the vessel, missing the most important and meaningful events with their family during the upcoming holidays. Please use a large shoebox – wrapped, without a bow - and fill it with some of the suggested items by the Seafarers Ministry. The list is available in the narthex. Walmart has an excellent box (11x7.5" for .63) **Please return your box by Sunday, December 5.**

Poinsettias are available to purchase for \$10 in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex or call the church office (281-852-8990) to indicate your preference. You may also sign up and pay for your poinsettias on the APC website (apchumble.org). Click the "Give Now" button to be directed to the appropriate fund.

First Sunday Lunch will meet December 5 at Nara Thai, 18455 W Lake Houston Pkwy, 77346, (Dutch treat) after worship. For more information, please contact Ann Owen, 832-724-7331.

Mission Marketplace is open Sunday morning - before and after worship – and Tuesday from 10 am until 3 pm. Please see Kathy Gava in the narthex.

Yoga class for everyone meets Monday at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.

The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need. Also, the support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Donations may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday (in an envelope marked "Christmas Joy") or click on the "Give Now" button on the APC website (apchumble.org).

The first Sunday of Advent is November 28. A daily devotional, written by Teri McDowell Ott, editor of Presbyterian Outlook, is available in the narthex. Pick up a copy today. If you prefer, you may follow the readings on the APC website (apchumble.org).

Pastoral Care for November. In case of emergency, please contact Libby Boyce, ph: 281-630-6347.

For more information on "everything APC," please check the APC website (apchumble.org) as it is continuously updated.

Calendar

Monday 11/29

9:30 am Yoga – fellowship hall

Tuesday 11/30

10:00 am Mission Crafters – craft room

Wednesday 12/1

Thursday 12/2

11:30 am Game Day for Grownups – fellowship hall

6:30 pm Mission Committee – by email

Friday 12/3

Saturday 12/4

11:00 am Esther Crosby Memorial Service

Prayers of the People

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Those who will celebrate the holidays for the first time without family members and loved ones they have lost this year. May their loving memory always be in our heart.
- Richard Munoz
- Sandy Lee's cousin
- Jerrie Anderson, Judi Anderson's stepmom.
- Sandy Lockett, Judi Anderson's friend.
- Nancy Lanasa recovering from a stroke.
- Maddy Carman, Russ and Ellen Nipe's granddaughter.
- Also, prayers for Maddy's doctors at Texas Children's Hospital.
- Kay Tiblet, friend of Pat and Carolyn Ditty, in MD Anderson for leukemia and needs direct blood donations. Please contact Mechele Adrian (mjadrian@mdanderson.org) at MDA for an appointment to donate blood.
- Brenda Petty, Carroll Hebert's sister-in-law, hospitalized.
- John, friend of Emily Murphy, diagnosed with dementia.
- Frieda Walker's brother-in-law diagnosed with covid.
- Doris Fisher having second cataract surgery Monday, November 29.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Vic Thompson, Pastor Richard and Elsa's cousin, he has passed away.
- The Mills family, Addie Kephart, and Sine McCarty.