



**Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Online Worship Service
Sunday, November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent**

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Jenne Sankey

Introit

Hyoun Joo Song

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Sandy Dixon and Kay Branson-Dixon

One: Today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

All: **We are homesick, but we are on our way. Let us worship God.**

Call to Confession

The Rev. Jody Andrade

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, We find ourselves with two options every day— to stay homesick for the world you had in mind, or to allow cynicism to win. Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel? Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible? Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins. Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt instead of using it to fuel a better world. Kindle in us a hope that won't let go. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Grace

One: Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel, even when we give up on hope, God does not give up on us. We are loved. We are claimed. We are invited closer to God's home. So hear and trust this good news:

All: There is room for us in God's house, and nothing can separate us from that love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are welcomed home. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Children's Sermon

Jennie

Anthem

And the Glory of the Lord
G.F. Handel

Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Jody

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Jody

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? **10** Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. **12** May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. **13** May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Scripture Reading

Luke 21:25-36

Jennie

25 "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. **26** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; **30** as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. **31** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 “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, **35** like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **36** 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.”

Sermon

Close to Home: Homesick

Jennie

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Rev. Katie Day

Adapted from the Confession of 1967 9.08

In Jesus of Nazareth true humanity was realized once and for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord.

Hymn 82

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Prayers of the People

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

Katie

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Katie

To give: ● return to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab or

● text givePHPC to 73256 or

● mail your offering to the church – 3700 Pleasant Hill Road Duluth, GA 30096

Prayer of Dedication

Following the Word into the World

Charge and Benediction

Jennie

Postlude

Hyoun Joo

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