



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

***Call to Worship** (based on Matthew 24)

Worship Leader

Leader: Keep awake.

People: Be ready.

Leader: For the Son of Man is coming.

All: We will worship and prepare. Thanks be to God!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Hope”

Teresa Greenawalt & Greg Miller

Reader: We watch and wait for Christ’s coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. *[Light the first candle.]*

Hear God’s promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

“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.”

Let us pray:

People: Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the promising of Christ’s advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Gathering Prayer

Gabriel Rodriguez

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

*please stand

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars remind us of our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgment and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

People: Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Word

Old Testament Lesson

Psalms 122:1-9

Gabriel Rodriguez

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house
of the Lord!”
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem - built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name
of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgment
were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.”
For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
For the sake of the house
of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

“The Nearness of Christ”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Middle Hymn**

“Holy Spirit”

***Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles’ Creed

**I BELIEVE
in God the Father, Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again**

**from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers and Offering

Prayers of the People/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.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them in the fulfillment of Christ’s ministry. May these gifts help heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, and heal the wounded. As Christ’s hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Angel Tree - Thank you to everyone who took a tag. The Angel Tree gifts will be picked up on Thursday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m. Please be sure to have all gifts dropped off before then. You can coordinate with Shawn on dropping off during the week if you can't on Sundays.

Guidelines for purchasing gifts:

- Do not wrap any gifts, but put them in a bag (store bag or trash bag) and attach the Angel Gift tag to the bag
- Do not include gift cards, candy, food, money, or used items.

Breakfast with Santa December 6 - Join us on this Saturday, December 6, for Kirkwood's Annual Breakfast with Santa from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; pictures with Santa from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Reservation forms are in tomorrow's newsletter and on the narthex table.

Session Meeting, December 7 - The December Session meeting will be held after worship at the home of Yvette Grant, 1461 Tomcat Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32221.

Bunko December 13 - The next Bunko night is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is required, and it is fun for all ages. A \$10.00 donation is asked for each person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building/grounds fund.

Congregational Meeting December 14 - There will be a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, December 14. The purpose is to elect new Session members and present next year's budget.

Christmas Joy Offering December 21 - The Christmas Joy offering assists current and retired church workers and their families in need, and it develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools, equipping communities of color. To donate to this offering, use the Christmas Joy offering envelope in the friendship pads or use the Special Offering block in the online giving portal.

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Party December 21 - On Sunday, December 21, at 11:30 a.m., the women will meet at the home of Lisa Christian, 3486 Worthington Oaks Drive, Orange Park, FL 32065. Please bring a gift valued at \$20.00 for the White Elephant Gift Exchange. There is a sign-up sheet clipboard in the Narthex.

If you joined in the Secret Sister Fun, bring your Secret Sister her Christmas gift. We will then have our Secret Sister reveal. We will also have a Secret Sister sign-up sheet for 2026!

October 2025 Pledges

Actual Received	\$5,943.22
Amount Pledged	\$6,428.00
Difference	-\$ 484.78

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

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