



**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.**

Isaiah 9:2

December 1, 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

785.233.9601

www.fpctopeka.org

facebook.com/topekafpc

December 1, 2024

Order of Worship

First Sunday of Advent

Where you see an asterisk (), please rise in body or spirit.*

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — **“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”** (“Sleepers, Wake!”)

— J. S. Bach

Public Domain

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

PRELUDE — **“Jefferson”** (“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”) — Donald Busarow

© 1980 Augsburg Publishing House

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: For those who sit in darkness, there is hope.

People: **To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's light is coming.**

Leader: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

People: **We will follow, unafraid, where God leads us.**

Leader: Let us worship our God of light and promise.

People: **Let us celebrate the hope of our salvation.**

*OPENING PRAYER

***OPENING HYMN #94** — **“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our light and our salvation, sometimes we prefer to live in darkness, embracing the safety and anonymity of the shadows; sometimes we delight in our divisions, believing we are better than others; sometimes the yoke of our calling feels too heavy, and we seek to slip out from under the bar across our shoulders. Forgive our fear. Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful blindness and deafness to the Way. Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our hope and our wonder, our very life. Hear us as we cry aloud in our need.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #551

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***“Glory to God” — #583**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC — “Come to Us, O Promised One” — Lloyd Larson

© 2006 Beckenhorst Press

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Psalm 27:1-4 — pg. 503 in OT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Isaiah 9:1-2 — pg. 638 in OT

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — “There Is Always Hope”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***HYMN #750 — “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” (Sing two times; 10:30 only)**

OFFERING

Offertory — “People, Look East” — Dale Wood

© 1995 The Sacred Music Press

***Doxology — #607**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***SENDING HYMN #104 — “Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — All-Church Prayer (see insert)**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Come to Us, O Promised One” (excerpt) — Lloyd Larson**

© 2006 Beckenhorst Press

POSTLUDE (8:30) — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Brandon Adams, Organ)

Public Domain

(10:30) — “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” — John Ferguson

© 1995 MorningStar Music Publishers

Ministers: All the Members of the Congregation

Pastors:

The Rev. Sandra Stogsdill Nichols, *Pastor*

Patrick Yancey, *Commissioned Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Dr. Neil Weatherhogg, *Pastor Emeritus*

Liturgist: Phil Baker

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Fellowship Hosts: Deacons

Audio/Video: Treven Broxterman, Will Hartner

Assistant to the Pastors: Treven Broxterman

Facilities Manager: Steve Johnson

Family Ministries Coordinator: Herman Jones

Financial Secretary: Penny Allton

Childcare Attendants:

Becky Foster, Samantha Edwards,

Maresella Newton

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

John Dorsey, Jane Owen