

Breath of Life



December 7, 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF TOPEKA

Loving God, loving neighbors, and living with purpose

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December 7, 2025

Order of Worship

Second Sunday in Advent

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (10:30) — Variations on “Noël Nouvelet” for organ — Robert C. Lau

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: This second Sunday of Advent is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRELUDE — “Hyfrydol” (“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”) — Paul Manz

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***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God says: Look at the world.

People: Eyes wide open, don't turn away.

Leader: God asks: Do you see life? A future? Hope?

People: All we see is that God alone knows.

Leader: God commands: Speak into the shadow of death.

All: Through the word, light and life come.

***OPENING PRAYER**

***OPENING HYMN #82 — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you know what is possible. You know how the pieces fit together, yet we have a hard time trusting you. We choose everything but peace, and reject the way that leads to life.

Forgive us, and breathe your breath into us. Re-member us, O God, and rebuild your Body.

Teach us your ways once again, that we may shine a glimmer of light where life once seemed impossible. We ask in the name of the coming One who is Life, Jesus the Christ.

SILENT CONFESSION and KYRIE — #286 (vv. 1 and 2)

Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,

until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA — #113 (refrain only)**

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

***PASSING THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC — “Redeemer” — arr. Michael S. Bryson

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WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING — Ezekiel 37:1-8 — pg. 806 in OT

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING — Ezekiel 37:9-14 — pg. 806 in OT

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE — Breathe!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN #752 — “Dona Nobis Pacem” (10:30 only)**

OFFERING

Offertory (8:30) — “Dona Nobis Pacem” — Traditional

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(10:30) — “The Lamb” — William Blake / Theodore Chanler

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***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.**

Communion Music — “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” — Gordon McQuere

With Permission

***SENDING HYMN #109 — “Blest Be the God of Israel”**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

WE DEPART IN JOY TO SERVE

***CHORAL BENEDICTION — “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” — Robert Hobby**

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POSTLUDE — “Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland”(“Savior of the Nations, Come”)

— Johann Pachelbel

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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: Jim Owen

Candle Lighter: Shirley Martin

Music Staff:

Dr. Kevin Kellim, *Director of Music*

Dr. Dina Pannabecker Evans, *Organist*

Dr. Cynthia Neufeld Smith, *Assistant Organist*

Norma Pettijohn, *Organist Emeritus*

Soloist: Lauren Lewis

Flutist: Detria Anderson

Fellowship Hosts: Birthday Sunday

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