

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent



First Evangelical & Holy Cross Churches

2740 Parker Ave.

West Palm Beach, FL 33405

www.felcwpb.com

“We are a community of churches and a church to the community.”

Welcome to worship with First Evangelical and Holy Cross churches. We come together for worship each Sunday to share in the ministry and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ with our own unique traditions and history. Seven other Christian ministries are located onsite with us.

If you are a guest or visitor and would like to know more about First Evangelical or Holy Cross, please reach out to one of our ushers, pastors, or fill out a welcome card and drop it in the offering boxes.

Thank you for joining us in worship this morning. May God bless you.

WELCOME / INVOCATION

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *The King Shall Come*



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phunt breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Father of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Everlasting Father,

C: We confess how we have not lived as your people.

**We serve many masters—work, wealth, power, addictions—
yet find no hope in them.**

**We hear the cries of the poor,
and shut the doors of our hearts to them.**

We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us.

**Forgive us, our compassionate God,
and heal us of our brokenness.**

**Make us well, so that by our healing,
we might be the hope and love others need in their lives,
even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,
brought these gifts to us,
calling us to be faithful
with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us.**

P: Now that we have let go of the pain,
the bitterness, the anger of our lives,
let us be kind, tender-hearted, and gentle towards each other,
forgiving as God has forgiven us.

**C: We are God's beloved children,
and will model God's grace and love in our hearts.
Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Each Winter As the Year Grows Older*



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. . .

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome** to worship with First and Holy Cross churches! Remember to join us for a delicious lunch today following worship today in the Fellowship Hall.
- Thank you, **Sera Butz**, for leading us in worship today and sharing the message. God bless her as she shares the Good News today!
- Help spread joy and love this holiday season by adopting an angel from our **angel tree** or by donating new, unwrapped **toys** for children – by December 7th. See flier for more information.
- The **Church Choir** is rehearsing after church today.
- Join us for our **Christmas Program** on Sunday, December 21st during worship. Come listen to the “Voices of Christmas” – those who were there when love came down. Each voice tells a part of the story – a story of wonder, of faith, and of the greatest gift ever given.
- Christmas is around the corner! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7:00 pm on December 24th. Join us for beautiful music, decorations, and an inspiring message that reminds us of the real reason for Christmas.
- Help decorate the church for Christmas by ordering **poinsettias** by Monday, December 15th. Forms are available at the back usher’s table, cost: \$10.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Hope Candle, also known as the Prophecy Candle, represents the anticipation and hope of the Messiah's coming.

Lighting of the first blue candle in the Advent wreath.

Prayer: Lord, as we light this blue candle of hope, we remember that Your light pierces the darkness and brings hope to all who trust in You. Fill our hearts with anticipation for Your coming, and may we carry this hope into every corner of our lives. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN: *O Come O Come Emmanuel (v1)*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

The elementary aged children are excused to take part in FLAME.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

2 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

² In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Holy Gospel, according to Saint Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

⁴² “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Serenity Butz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-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 - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

THE OFFERING

*Your OFFERING is received in the back of the church.
Separate BOXES are available for both Holy Cross &
First Evangelical churches.*

For First Evangelical only, you can give online at
www.felcwpb.com or TEXT2GIVE 844-504-1678
or Scan QR Code.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. - Amen.

BENEDICTION/ BLESSING

P: Holy God, who was, who is, and who is to come,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C: Amen.

RECESSIONAL SONG: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME to all and thank you for joining us in worship today as we give thanks and praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We pray that the service will be meaningful and uplifting for you. If you are a first-time visitor, please sign the Guest Register. You are invited to stay for coffee and refreshments following the service. We very much would like to greet you and hope to make you feel welcome.

Serving in Worship

Pastors	- Rev. Daniel D. Baker & Rev. Dr. Michael Breznen
Crucifers	- Tom Kalorgis, Hilka Schroderus-Rowe
Liturgists	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz
Communion Assistants	- Dianne Breznen, Sera Butz, Hilka Schroderus-Rowe
Sound/Live Stream	- Ken Burton
Video	- Sera Butz, Scot Alexander

	This Week	Next Week
Musicians	Sandra Baran	CAC-WPB Praise Team
Lector	Susan Moncher	Judith Miller
Ushers	Katherine S., Judith M.	Katherine S., Judith M.
Greeters	Bob S. & Susan M.	Bob S. & Susan M.
Guest Preacher	Sera Butz	

Remember in Prayer

We pray for peace between nations and peoples and for just resolutions to the conflicts throughout the world – especially the people of Israel and fellow believers facing life-threatening persecution; those in war-torn countries; for all members of our armed services and law enforcement personnel; for our country and our nation’s leaders; for the Church, Church leaders, for **Youth for Christ**, and all faithful witnesses to the Gospel; for our missionaries – **Anthony and Soyoung Sellari** and their work in Egypt.

We pray for God’s healing presence to be with: **Dennis, Bill, Cynthia A, Dylan B, John, Leona, Lisa & Don, Raj, Sandy, Carl, Trish, Lou, Allan, Carson, David S, Gertrude, Holly, Katie, Linda, Marilynn, and Patrick; Lesley H** (friend of Katherine Summers); **Linda Z** – lung cancer (Lori Kinney’s friend); **Cyndy S** (for healing); **Joan Cannon** (health issues); and members of the **Holy Cross and First Evangelical Church** families who are at home and unable to attend.

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Church Office Hours
Monday – Wednesday – Friday
9 a.m. until 1 p.m.