

Order — *for the* — Worship of God



164th Meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery
hosted by
First Presbyterian Church, Plainview

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September 25, 2026

“First Coming”

by Madeleine L'Engle, 1918-2007

God did not wait till the world was ready,
till...nations were at peace.
God came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.
God did not wait for the perfect time.
God came when the need was deep and great.
God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. God did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy God came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours of anguished shame
God came, and God's light would not go out.
God came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait till the world is sane
To raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Art and Theology: **Kintsugi** (“golden joinery”) is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by mending the areas of breakage with *urushi* lacquer dusted or mixed with powdered gold, silver, or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise.

We are held together by The Word, the author and perfecter of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Members of the Wayland International Choir: Caileigh Gasser, Gus Hernandez, Jarrett Lynch, J’Kaila O’Neal

Members of the First Presbyterian Church Choir: Jill Craig, Karen Copple, Karen Beth Strovas, Sally Strovas, Sammy Strovas, Gene Whitfill, LaDeanna Whitfill, Scott Strovas, director, Jim Tirey, pianist

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAISE AND CONTEMPLATION

PRELUDE

"Come, All Christians, Be Committed"
David Kidwell

Jim Tirey, Elder

Meditate and ready your mind for Word and Worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Karen Copple, Elder

POETRY

"First Coming"
by Madeleine L'Engle, 1918-2007

Rev. Dr. Scott Campbell

CHORAL INTROIT

"I Will Sing Praise"
Joseph M. Martin

CALL TO WORSHIP

PSALM 130, NRSVUE

Sue Lewellan, Elder

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: **But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

Leader: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

People: **It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.**

* **MEDITATION (Listen or sing along.):** "O Lord, You're Beautiful"

1. Oh Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;
And when Your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me.
2. O Lord, You're wonderful, Your touch is all I need;
And when Your hand is on this child, Your healing I receive. (Repeat #1)

PASTORAL PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Moderator and Rev. Becky Fox

Followed by **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Hymnal pg. 35

FIRST READING

I CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Dr. Scott Stovas

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Elise Adamson, Elder

Almighty and loving God, we confess that we need your strength to face up to ourselves. We find it much easier to make excuses to ourselves, but we are sinners. Help us to be truly honest with you. We offer our lives to you, Lord. Create in us a pure heart and desire to be more like Jesus. Grace us. Forgive us. Disciple us.

QUIET MINUTE OF CONTEMPLATION AND SELF-CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS: LUKE 24:46-47

Leader: ...and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

People: **Because of God’s great love for us in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to God Creator, Glory be to the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit, known as three, yet God the One.

MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD
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PROCLAMATION:

JAMES 3:1-12

“Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires”

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, Vice-President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of Faculty at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed, Hymnal pg. 35

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

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.

TABLE SERVICE OPEN TO ALL

Dr. Karen Copple, Elder and Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

SHARING OF THE TITHES

Bridge Presbyter and Stated Clerk David Kemp, Elder

Tonight's offering is designated for the Celebration Scholarship.



Celebration Scholarship provides PC(USA) graduating seniors within Palo Duro Presbytery with up to eight semesters of scholarship support, encouraging them to pursue higher education while continuing to grow in faith and active participation in the life of the church.

OFFERTORY

“I Love Thee, My God”

Douglas E. Wagner

DOXOLOGY

*** HYMN:**

“We Are One in the Spirit”

#300

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer

POSTLUDE

“God of Grace and God of Glory”