



Community Presbyterian Church

Second Sunday of Advent
10 December 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

There's A Song in the Air

*Call to Worship

(One) This is the season of holy waiting.

(All) We wait for the One who was incarnate. God in human flesh. He redeems us through water and spirit.

(One) We watch for the day when He will break through the clouds and gather those who truly believe in Him.

(All) Until he returns, we will wait in hope and live in His light.

(One) Come let us walk in the light of God!

Opening Prayer

Second Candle of Advent: Peace

(One) Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

(All) We light the candle of peace in anticipation of Christ's return. Trusting in God, we wait.

Lighting the Hope and Peace Candles

(One) God of peace, out of death you bring life. Renew us in your peace, so that we may be aware to the dawning of Christ's advent among us.

(All) God of peace, into our darkness come.

*Hymn (154)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) 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 thee, O Israel!

(2) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

(3) O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

(One) LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

(All) You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

(One) Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

(All) Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

(One) Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

(All) Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

(One) The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

***Hymn (153)** *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

(1) On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh:
awake and listen for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

(2) Let every heart be cleansed from sin,
make straight the way for God within,
and so prepare to be the home
where such a mighty guest may come.

(3) For you are our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.

(4) To heal the sick, stretch out your hand,
and make the fallen sinner stand;
shine out, and let your light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

(5) To you, O Christ, all praises be,
whose advent set your people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore!

Prayer of Confession

(All) Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to a season. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Assure us of our pardon that we may find rest in you. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

New Testament Reading

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

***Hymn (191)** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

(1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

(2) Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

(3) For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years,
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

RESPONSE

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles Creed*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven
and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our
Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day
he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. **I**
believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory *Polish Lullaby*

***Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespass)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

O Come All Ye Faithful

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Games Up Here

Join us for "**Games up here**" on **Monday, December 11th** at the Presbyterian Annex at 7:00pm.

December Session

This Wednesday, December 13th, the CPC Session will meet in Darley Hall at 10am.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us this **Wednesday, December 13th at 5:00pm** online and in Darley Hall as we explore the fifth chapter of *On the Brink of Everything—Keep Reaching Out: Staying Engaged with the World*.

Pastor: Rev. Jason Brian Santos, Ph.D. (206) 962-9886

Organist/Pianist: Celeste Scott

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SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:1-11

40:1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

40:3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

40:4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

40:5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

40:6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

40:7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

40:9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

40:10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

40:11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

3:8 But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

3:9 The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

3:11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

3:12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

3:13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

3:14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish;

3:15a and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Mark 1:1-8

1:1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1:2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

1:3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

1:4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

1:5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

1:6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1:7 He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

1:8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."