

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 † 10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Chuck Falconer

LITURGIST: Marcia Sanderman

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, David, Renn, Turner, and Linda Sanderman

VIDEO/SOUND: Roger Rees, Steve Rees, Dan Rueff

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (Marcia Sanderman and Turner Sanderman)

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer. Hear these words from the prophet Isaiah: The Lord shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

We light this candle in hope.

Let us pray... God, we ask that you prepare our bodies, prepare our minds, and prepare our hearts for your coming to this world. Take root, grow within us, and blossom for all to see. Your kingdom come; your will be done.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE No. 90 (Wait for the Lord)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

WORDS OF PRAISE

I was glad when you said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "Peace be within your walls."

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

OPENING HYMN No. 100 (My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout)

Verse 1: *My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain: *My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Verse 2: *Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.*

Refrain

Verse 3: *From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.* Refrain

Verse 4: *Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.*

Refrain

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, ever faithful to Your promises: the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming into our lives and into the world. Prepare our hearts to receive Him when He comes. Cleanse us from all that leads us to turn away from Him, trusting in ourselves to make our future good. Empower us by Your Spirit to prepare ourselves for Christ's return by doing the work to which He has commissioned us, until Your reign is revealed in its fulness and power.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE No. 88 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)

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

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.

Friends, believe the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 583 (Glory to God)

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

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Isaiah 63: 16 and 64:8; Mark 13:32-37; I Corinthians 1:3-9)

ANTHEM ("The 'Huron' (Wendat) Carol." Verses 1, 4, and 5 from a new text by Dana Lynn Seaborn; melody 16th century French, arranged by David Buley. Sung by David, Renn, and Turner Sanderman)

MESSAGE ("Expectation" by Rev. Chuck Falconer)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 106 (Prepare the Way, O Zion)

Verse 1: ***Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.***

Refrain: ***O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.***

Verse 2: ***He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.*** Refrain

Verse 3: ***Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.*** Refrain

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Confession of 1967)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They, therefore, accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERTORY (Offerings can be mailed into the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING HYMN No. 82 (Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)

Verse 1: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

Verse 2: *Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

May God our creator bring peace and hope to us in this season of Advent.

May Christ our savior teach us patience and love.

May the Spirit move within us to share God's love with each other and the world.

And may our lives be forever changed by this love.

Go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE



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