

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2020 † 10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTOR: Rev. Jeff Binder

LITURGIST: Don Sowers

MUSICIANS: Bob Hinson, Eoghan McDowell

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Greg Russell, Donna Russell

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE AND ELEMENTS (*Silent Night*; Nick Browning, piano)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (The Russell Family)

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: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace.

Let us pray... Most Holy God, you alone are our comfort, our peace. Help us to prepare our hearts, our homes, and our communities, as we await the Messiah who will bring ultimate peace and justice.

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

ADVENT RESPONSE No. 90 (Wait for the Lord) (Sung two times)

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

WORDS OF PRAISE

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!"

OPENING HYMN No. 93 (Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates)

Verse 1: *Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits; the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

Verse 2: *Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ; adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

Verse 3: *Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.*

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 88 (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) (Verse 2)

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. In the name of 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 (Mark 1:1-8)

MESSAGE ("A New Hope" by Rev. Jeff Binder)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From *The Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

OFFERTORY (*Comfort Ye* from *Messiah* by Handel; Eoghan McDowell, Tenor)
(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.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS No. 559 (Holy, Holy, Holy)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Cantor, Eoghan McDowell) Malotte

Please join in singing as you are able

SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

CLOSING HYMN No. 140 (Once in Royal David's City)

Verse 1: *Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.*

Verse 2: *He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

Verse 3: *Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*

Verse 4: *And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE