

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 5, 2021 † 10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

PASTORS: Rev. Robin Garvin, Rev. Jenny Pratt Hale

LITURGIST: Lars Hoffbeck

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Luke Smith, Sanctuary Choir

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

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (Raoul and Jan Bellis-Squires)

On this second Sunday in Advent, we hear the words of John the Baptist who calls us to repentance. We know that all is not right with us or with our world. There is strife within and without, brokenness too, and yet we live in hope. Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and up hold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore."

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle in peace. This candle is a symbol of the light of Christ who has come and continues to come into the world. With Christ comes the light of peace, which is wholeness.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord, who is our hope and our peace. Amen.

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

Verse 1: ***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.***

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.***

◆ **WORDS OF PRAISE**

Blessed is the Lord God!

The Lord has looked favorably upon us and redeemed us.

By the tender mercy of our God

the dawn from on high will break upon us.

Light will be given to those who sit in darkness,

to those who sit in the shadow of death.

The light will come to us

to guide our feet into the way of peace.

◆ **OPENING HYMN** No. 104 (O Lord, How Shall I Meet You)

Verse 1: *O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.*

Verse 2: *Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.*

Verse 3: *You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that our feet have wandered from the way of peace into aimless detours and crooked diversions. We need the cleansing and refining that you alone can graciously give if ever we are to be made pure and blameless. Forgive our foolish sins and faithless deeds. Let your tender mercies dawn upon us, that we may seek you and serve you all the days of our lives. Amen.

CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE No. 108 (Of the Father's Love Begotten)

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

◆ **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND PEACE**

Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us. The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made new. Thanks be to God!
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

◆ **RESPONSE OF PRAISE** No. 106 (Prepare the Way, O Zion)

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

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE (Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 3:1-6)

MESSAGE ("Coming to Our Senses" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

SPECIAL SOLO ("No Wind at the Window" traditional Irish melody; Siena Hertafeld, vocalist)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Study Catechism: Full Version, Question 21)

Despite our turning from God, God did not turn from us, but instead sent Jesus Christ in the fullness of time to restore our broken humanity. Jesus lived completely for God, by giving himself completely for us, even to the point of dying for us. By living so completely for others, he manifested what he was – the perfect image of God. When by grace we are conformed to him through faith, our humanity is renewed according to the divine image that we lost.

CHORAL OFFERTORY ("Keep Your Lamps!" traditional spiritual arranged by Victor Johnson) (Offerings can be mailed to the church office or made online by visiting our website: www.valleycommunity.org)

◆ DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God 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 (traditional version) (Luke Smith, vocalist)

SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

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 BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC