

VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 4, 2022 † 10:00 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bold Text is spoken/sung by everyone

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

LITURGIST: Elise Jenkins

MUSICIANS: Thomas Rheingans, Siena Hertafeld, Luke Smith

VIDEO/SOUND: Steve Rees, Dan Rueff, Hayden Bach, Dean Bridges

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELEMENTS AND MUSICAL INTERLUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (Judy David-Hope and Janet Budke)

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." (Isaiah 9:6,7) We light this candle as 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)

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.

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP

The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

This justice shall be for all of creation.

Peace shall be established in all the world. **Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!**

Blessed be God who does such wondrous things! **Let us worship God!**

♦ OPENING HYMN No. 97 (Watchman, Tell Us of the Night)

Verse 1: ***Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are. Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory beaming star. Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell? Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.***

Verse 2: ***Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends. Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends. Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth? Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.***

Verse 3: ***Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn. Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn. Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home. Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace, we have built up walls to protect ourselves from our enemies, but those walls also shut us off from receiving your love. Break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through the reconciliation of our own hearts with our enemies. Bless them and us, that we may come to grow in love for each other and for you, through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

CONFESSIOAL RESPONSE No. 92 (While We Are Waiting, Come)

Verse 1: *While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Verse 2: *With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

Verse 3: *Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.*

◆ ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace. Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve! The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

◆ RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 95 (Prepare the Way of the Lord) (Sung 2 times)

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (Isaiah 11:1-10)

ANTHEM ("God With Us" by Ingram and Jordan of the band All Sons & Daughters; Siena Hertafeld and Luke Smith, vocalists)

MESSAGE ("The Peaceable Kingdom" by Rev. Robin Garvin)

RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

◆ HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 378 (We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom)

Verse 1: *We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.*

Verse 2: *Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home: we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.*

Verse 3: *When wars of desolation and hate come to an end, when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend," still peace in all its fullness will only have begun: shalom for all creation begins with justice done.*

Verse 4: *That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way, to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.*

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

OFFERTORY (“Let There Be Peace on Earth,” Luke Smith, vocalist)

(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 found on page 35 of the hymnal) (Siena Hertafeld, cantor)

SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

◆ CLOSING HYMN No. 373 (O Day of Peace)

Verse 1: ***O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes. May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release, till by Good’s grace our warring world shall see Christ’s promised reign of peace.***

Verse 2: ***Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small; as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all. Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord; the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.***

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

SENDING MUSIC