



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

*Draw near to God
for God is waiting for you.*

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome today to this time of preparation.

Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.

Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. Amen.

*OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise. We hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the name of the One who is coming, we pray. Amen!

*HYMN #82 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Gianna and Becky Schroeder, Ellie and Ruth Squillace

Today we light two candles - the first candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

The second candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

We seek God's peace in this time of stress.

Let the light of these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God, as we journey down this Advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts; Peace in our homes; Peace in our communities. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Peggy Danilowicz, soloist

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

**HYMN #123* 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. Yet with its woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

4. And you, beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

5. 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 the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

SERMON The Silent Longing

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

We delight in your love and salvation, Lord. There can be no greater gifts than these. We will gladly serve you in holiness and righteousness. We offer ourselves. We offer all that you have provided us. May it be used to bring your light to those who dwell in darkness. Prepare us and complete us, Lord. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS (Please hold your elements up as the Words of Institution are spoken)

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN #119* Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

2. Christ, the highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born no more that we may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Church Staff

Susan Fall, Pastor Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator Jason Gordon, Youth Director
Mary Ann Welsh, Treasurer Chris Miterko, Grounds Keeper

ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 5, 2021

*****TODAY:**

Youth Group Winter Apparel Drive: The youth group will be holding a drive for veterans, ex-offenders, the homeless and recovering addicts through *Absolute Access Powerhouse*. This organization provides a re-entry program that helps this population obtain permanent employment. Donations of coats, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters, blankets – anything warm – can be brought to the church on the 5th between 1-3:00 PM.

*****THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday noontime lunch: Bring your lunch and join us in Fellowship Hall, December 8 at noon. All are welcomed for a midweek get together.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR DISABLED ADULTS – For several years our congregation has helped to make Christmas a little merrier for some disabled adults living in the group homes run by Allies Inc. Once again we will extend this holiday cheer. Gift requests are now available with gift items on the small Christmas tree in Fellowship Hall. You can also call the church office for a request. A list of all requests has been emailed to the congregation. Again, that list can be made available upon request. Please let the church office know if you have taken a request so we can keep the list updated. All gifts are to be returned to the church by December 16. They should be wrapped and have a gift tag with the name of the individual on the tag including the name in parenthesis.

*****LOOKING AHEAD:**

Longest Night Worship Service with The Anchor Presbyterian Church: This worship service will be held at The Anchor Presbyterian Church on December 15 at 7:00 PM. The Christmas season is marked with hope and joy, but the season can also bring feelings of sadness, grief, anxiety and re-ignite difficult memories and experiences. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health and mental illness, the pain of isolation, loved ones lost, and addiction - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending.

The Longest Night is a simple and reflective worship service of light in the midst of the darkness. You are invited to take a break from the hurried pace of the season as we create a space to remember loved ones, share our hurts with God, decompress from the stress of the season and reclaim the story of Christmas. The story of God's comforting presence with those who mourn and struggle. The story of God sending the light of the world into the darkest of days.

Calendar:

- December 6 -** 10am Parish Life meeting.
- December 8 -** 12noon – Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch.
- December 9 -** 7pm Bible Study - Our Advent study will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Bible study is held on Zoom each Thursday at 7:00pm: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782 using meeting ID 127 591 875.

In our thoughts and prayers:

It is with the deepest sadness that we extend our sympathy to the Stemplewicz family upon the death of Rebecca. We also extend our sympathy to Betty DelPrete upon the death of her son, Keith. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn. They shall be comforted."

We also remember in our prayers: The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari, Dick Wright, Sally Thiessen