

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DECEMBER 6, 2020

COMMUNION SUNDAY / 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASKS ARE REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP!

PRELUDE/MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION

"Away in a Manger"

Cheryl Mayhew, organist
Arr by Douglas E. Wagner

GREETING

Pastor Eric Gale

RINGING OF THE BELL

ADVENT READING

Clint & Charlotte Gingerich

We, as Christians, are in a time where we need PEACE more than ever. Our world is turned upside down. The PEACE for calm in our country in the years ahead; the PEACE for a world poised with hatred, retaliation and possibly war; but more importantly, the PEACE that Christians can live a life not filled with fear, a life filled instead with strength in their faith and that PEACE will prevail through God's Kingdom. Do you think that PEACE was present in the times before Jesus's birth? King Herod feared the loss of his throne and demanded a census be taken. He was determined to locate all the male children so he could have them killed thus eliminating any threat to his reign. This edict gave no PEACE to his kingdom and the surrounding areas. God's people knew that this was not Herod's kingdom to claim but that of their Lord. God would give His people PEACE and HOPE through the birth of His Son then and now. "And the PEACE of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF PEACE

With PEACE, we light this second candle of Advent, so we can step forward towards our Lord, Jesus Christ, who was born to save us. We should acknowledge that with this faith that He, and He alone, can bring us PEACE at this time and in the future.

† OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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.

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.

CCLI #1160606

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

All: Dear Lord, we have forgotten to be at PEACE in our lives amidst all the chaos. We pray that You will forgive us and enable us to be better Christians. Encourage us to reach our hands out in PEACE to our adversaries so that Your Kingdom can prevail and good will triumph. Amen.

† WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

L: God, give Your people PEACE in this time of chaos

P: Let us look forward to the birth of Your Son

L: Know that God is our true PEACE and Jesus, our life everlasting.

P: Thanks be to God!

† GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Is Your Heart Prepared For A King?"

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

"Candy Canes"

Douglas

HYMN OF PREPARATION "Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel; God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

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MESSAGE

"Someday My Prince (of Peace) Will Come"
Isaiah 9:6-7; John 14:27

Pastor Eric Gale

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

-Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. AMEN.

-Prayer of Thanksgiving

-Partaking of the Elements

-The Lord's Prayer

† CLOSING HYMN "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb; Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleas'd as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that men no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. [Refrain]

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† BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Paeon For a Festival"

Robert J. Hughes

† Please stand if you are able.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Norma & John Sanderson, friends of Kathi and Fred Powell, who have been separated for several months due to Covid-19.

Those who feel a deep sense of loneliness, especially during these Covid days.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Paul & Jennie Auble, on the birth of twin granddaughters, Lucy & Addison. Parents are Tyler and Jordan Auble.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT2)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

John 14:27 (NLT2)

"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."

MESSAGE NOTES

I. In the _____! That is where peace begins if it is going to _____!

II. Deep and abiding peace only comes when Christ builds a _____ in your heart!

III. True peace comes from the _____ out...not the _____ in!

IV. God's plan is that you and I are _____ of peace!