

1st Sunday of Advent

November 29th, 2020

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH*

HYMN OF PRAISE *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* JEFFERSON

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within
Seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day
Christ the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him

Christ, eternal Sun of justice; Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed
Come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

God-who-Dreams, over and over again in scripture we hear your dream for a beautiful world. We hear your dream for peace and reconciliation. We hear your dream for harmony and togetherness. We hear your dream for community and hope. We hear your dreams, yet we do not open our eyes. We continue to live with the curtains drawn, the covers pulled tight, and our eyes shut to the realities of the world. Forgive us. Kindle in us a hope that will burn through the darkest nights. Send your Spirit to give us the strength and the will to keep awake in this sleeping world. With hope we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: The hope of the Gospel is this:

All: We have not lived up to God's dreams for us or for the world.

One: We deserve condemnation and death for this failure of obedience.

All: But God, in Christ, dreams a new dream for us.

One: Instead of condemnation, we receive love; instead of death, we receive life.

All: In Christ, we are forgiven and set free. We are given hope to awaken us to God's dreams.

RESPONSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

**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**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

During this time, we invite you to pass the peace by texting a fellow church member, family member, friend, relative, or loved one, "May the peace of Christ be with you."

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Matthew Mimbs, tenor

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!

O ye heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, His praises sing
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

GOSPEL READING Mark 13:24-37

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Tim Reynolds

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from* The Heidelberg Catechism

Q. What comfort does the return of Christ "to judge the living and the dead" give you?

A. That in all affliction and persecution I may await with head held high the very Judge from heaven who has already submitted himself to the judgment of God for me and has removed all the curse from me; that he will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but he shall take me, together with his elect, to himself into heavenly joy and glory.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF SENDING

There Is a Mighty Question

MERLE'S TUNE

**There is a mighty question we ask when nations rage:
Just when will be Christ's coming, the ending of the age?
Take care, said Jesus clearly, for many will appear;
They'll claim to be Messiah, yet people should not fear.**

**So keep awake and watchful; salvation is at hand!
Our hope is in Christ Jesus, and by God's grace we stand.
The night is almost over, we wait for God's new day,
And through the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus' way.**

**Be ready in your living, for when you feed the poor,
Or give to thirsty children the water they long for,
And when you welcome strangers and help the ones in need,
Christ says: "Receive my kingdom, for you are serving me."**

✠ BENEDECTION AND RESPONSE

✠ POSTLUDE

*Adapted from a liturgy/prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

Dana Hendrix – Liturgist

Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

David Stultz – Asst. Director of Music/Organist

2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Technicians: Dale Henley, Matt Casey (video), Paul Sexauer (audio)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Kay Weaver, the Stultz family, the Bartlett family, Harriet Campbell, Frieda Sims, the Frazer family, Imogene Posey, Katie Sergent Keene, Betty McCollum, Brenda Goslee, Mariann Thuesen, Emily Rose, Dr. Ed Carver, Bill Gosnell, Aggie Bell, Dotty Barbour, Donna Downen, Douglas Hamilton, Frances and Mary Johnson, and Jennifer Levy-Tatum.

*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request.
Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

WORSHIP & CELEBRATION

THE FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given by Aggie Bell, “to the Glory of God and in honor of my children and grandchildren”.

UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS: We are currently following the Revised Common Lectionary. Our Advent theme is *Those Who Dream...* Upcoming sermon texts/topics are:

Nov 29	Mark 13:24-37	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> keep awake (Hope)
Dec 6	Mark 1:1-8	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> prepare the way (Peace)
Dec 13	Luke 1:46b-55	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> sow joy (Joy)
Dec 20	Luke 1:26-38	<i>Those Who Dream...</i> are not alone (Love)

ADVENT WREATH CANDLE LIGHTERS NEEDED: We need people to record the Advent Wreath liturgy this year to be played while we light the candle in the sanctuary. If you, your family, your group of friends, Sunday School Class, Fellowship Group, or any other combination of folks are interested in lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath – we can do it safely and distanced – this Advent season, we will handle the liturgy and the technology! Please let Pastor Tim know of your interest.

THE DECEMBER SECOND EDITION is now available! View it online via our website or the weekly Friday email. Copies are also available in the vestibule.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE WILL BE HELD virtually on December 21st at 6:00 p.m. During this Advent season that is occurring during a pandemic, we are all grieving the loss of something. Join us as we pray, read Scripture, sing, and are reminded that even though we may be alone in our homes, we are not alone. God’s presence is with us and God’s light shines in the darkness.

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE will be held virtually at 5:30 pm on December 24th. For those who need them, candles will be available in the vestibule at the church beginning Monday, December 14th. If you prefer to have candles brought to you, please contact Audrey in the church office.

FELLOWSHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

A PASTORAL CARE PAGE is on our website under the ‘About Us’ tab. For the password to access, please contact the church office.

MEALS FOR THE HOMEBOUND: If you are interested in joining a cooking team to prepare meals for some of our homebound members, please contact Leslie Matthews at flowlilly@gmail.com or 865.765.0549.

DRIVE-THRU CAROLING: On Sunday, Dec. 13th, carolers will be on the steps between the sanctuary and chapel between 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. to carol to anyone who wants to drive through and be caroled to. If you would like to be one of the carolers, please arrive at 2:30 p.m. and meet in the courtyard.

DISCIPLESHIP

OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY IS ON HIATUS through the end of the year. Details on upcoming studies will be communicated in January.

FAITH, SCIENCE AND THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS meets at 9:30 a.m. by conference call.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE. A digital version is on our website under the “Publications” tab. Hard copies are available on the table in the vestibule outside the atrium.

ADVENT PRAYER PARTNERS. The Discipleship Team is offering a new spiritual growth opportunity this Advent season through becoming an Advent Prayer Partner. Since we must stay distanced, we hope that this prayer partnership will draw us closer together. To participate, visit the home page of the website or call the church office.

SERVICE & OUTREACH

DONATIONS OF STUFFED ANIMALS are being collected by the Second Readers. Donations can be dropped off in the vestibule outside the atrium Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

DONATIONS OF HATS, MITTENS AND GLOVES for the Westview Elementary clothes closet may be placed on the tree in the vestibule.

STEWARDSHIP

A CHURCH WORK DAY will be held on Saturday, December 5th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. See the Friday email for more details.