

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT: PEACE

Sunday, December 6, 2015

10:55 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

THE CHIMES

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.”

THE OPENING SENTENCELucrecia Norman

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

†THE PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”..... *arr. Erin MacGorman*
Children’s Bells

THE INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYERLucrecia Norman

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 142

“Long Ago, Prophets Knew”..... *PERSONENT HODIE*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE..... Lou Tatum and Susan Edge

One: God’s messenger is a voice shouting in the wilderness.

All: What sort of peace is this that does not rescue us from the wilderness but leads us through it?

One: God’s fierce messenger comes and it is more than we can stand.

All: What sort of peace is this that pulls us out of our holy comfort zones?

One: God’s faithful messenger writes of joy from prison.

All: What sort of peace is this that sings of gratitude in the midst of difficulty? We do not understand your peace, O God. But deep in our bones we understand that in such peace is our life and our hope. And so today we light a candle called peace. ~Peggy Haymes

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

“A Candle of Peace” *Kenneth A. Wilson*

The Chancel Choir

*A candle of peace gives clear light to calm our hearts in restless nights,
That we may know the shining form of Spirit’s grace in us newborn.
Wise ones were led by star above, we look in peace at candle’s gleam,
That we may prove the wisdom of Mary’s song and Joseph’s dream.*

~Ben Ellis

* Those who are able will stand.

† Ushers will seat those waiting.

Hearing aids and large print hymns are available from the ushers.

CONFESSING OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison).....Lucrecia Norman

It is an easy thing, God, to pass the peace, to shake a hand or hug a friend and wish the peace of Christ upon them. But it is so much harder to live that peace.

**Forgive us, O God,
when fearing difficult conversations we have allowed our peace to be lip service;
when fearing hard work in the wilderness of our world we have been content to confine Your peace to a feeling and not a commitment;
when fearing what You would burn away in us we have tried to keep You relegated to a single Sunday hour of our lives.**

Forgive us, God, and nurture within us the courage to seek peace, to make peace, to be Your peace among all the peoples. ~Peggy Haymes

THE SILENT CONFESSION

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Malachi 3:1-4Jenna Jordan

One: This is the word of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11Ed Southern

One: This is the word of God.

Deacon of the Week

All: Thanks be to God.

THE CHILDREN’S TIMEDiane Lipsett

*THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-6 Daniel Potter

One: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

*THE HYMN OF DEVOTION, NO. 136

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *PUER NOBIS*

During the last stanza, children who are in first grade through third grade are invited to meet the Children’s Worship leaders in the narthex.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Bob Setzer, Jr.

THE ANTHEM

“E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”..... Paul Manz

The Chancel Choir

Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; Sing Holy, Holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon! E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their all! ~Revelation 22

THE SERMON Bob Setzer, Jr.

RESPONDING IN FAITH

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself at this time. If you prefer not to present yourself, you may speak to one of the ministers after the service to effect membership. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to renew their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

***THE HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP, NO. 271**

“Christ Is Coming! Let Creation” CWM RHONDDA

THE PASTORAL GREETING Bob Setzer, Jr.

THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ed Southern

THE SERVICE OF GIVING

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. Sandra Eithun

Chancel Bells

*The Presentation and Doxology

DEPARTING TO SERVE

***THE BENEDICTION**..... Bob Setzer, Jr.

***THE CHORAL BENEDICTION**

“Ring, Bells, Ring” PERSONENT HODIE

The Chancel Choir

***THE POSTLUDE**

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” arr. Wilbur Held

Lauren Winkelman, organ



ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Today is the Second Sunday in Advent. This morning’s candle-lighting liturgy and prayer of confession were written by Knollwood member Peggy Haymes. We welcome new member Lou Tatum and her daughter Susan Edge as the Advent candle lighters.

ABOUT OUR BANNERS

Each Sunday during Advent, a new Advent banner will be introduced. The adding of a banner each Sunday is meant to add to our anticipation and joy as the coming of Christ child draws near. The banners will explore, in sequence, the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love.

The second banner of the series is the banner of Peace. The image of the lion laying down with the lamb is drawn from Isaiah 11:6: *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.* The peace Isaiah describes, when mortal enemies are reconciled, is a peace only God can give. This is the peace God’s Son comes into the world to bring.

The artist who designed and painted the Advent banners is our own Bambi Setzer.

PLEASE REFER TO P. 32 FOR ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.