

First Presbyterian Church Worship Bulletin 12.10.23
2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Prayer of the Day

Holy Lord, a voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen.

Prelude *The First Noel* Arr. Kevin Chesney

***Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candles**

Listen! Can you hear?

We can hear the sound of God's comfort!

We can hear God's tenderness to the people.

We can hear God's mercy and forgiveness.

The prophet tells us that God makes straight what is crooked.

We know that God's glory will be revealed in Peace.

Today we add the light of the Peace candle to the light of the Hope candle.

(Two purple candles are lit). Let us pray:

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.

***Hymn of Praise** *Comfort, Comfort O My People #3*

1 Comfort, comfort you my people,

Tell of peace, thus saith our God;

Comfort those who sit in darkness

Bowed beneath oppression's load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem

Of the peace that waits for them;

Tell them that their sins I cover,

And their warfare now is over.

*2 For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance
Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting
And the hills bow down in greeting.*

*3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain:
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits God's holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.*

Call to Confession

A voice is crying out, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord!"
Trusting in God's grace, let us lay our burdens before Christ, preparing our hearts for his presence, and welcoming the peace he offers. Let us pray together...

Laying Our Burdens Before Christ

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

Prayer Song *While We Are Waiting, Come (v2)*
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

Silent Reflection and Confession

*Proclamation of the Gospel

God has been waiting patiently for us to turn back to him. The embrace you receive in your forgiveness is stronger than that of any parent. Let us celebrate that forgiveness as you have been made whole in Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen!

*Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Emmanuel, God with us, be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another. If you are worshiping online with us, please share your peace with us in the comments.

*The Gloria Patri

Prayer for God's Wisdom

Give us your peace, O God, so that as we hear your Word proclaimed, we might find the path that leads to you.

Scripture Readings Isaiah 40:1-11

Message

Offering Our Gifts and Ourselves to God

Offertory *Still, Still, Still* Arr. Cathy Moklehurst

***Doxology** #592

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

*Prayer of Dedication

Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future. By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand, and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts. Fill us with gratitude overflowing, that we may share life and love in praise to you. In the gracious name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

***Communion Hymn People Look East #12**

*1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.*

*4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

*5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

The Lord's Supper

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 with Prayers of the Community and the Lord's Prayer

Distribution of Elements

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Postlude

Remembering in Prayer

Praise and Thanksgiving: (Lord, hear our praise): The wonderful music of the Alleluia Bells!

Ministry of the Church in the Community: Alcoholics Anonymous

Healing and Encouragement (Lord, hear our prayer):

Homebound: Jean, Ernie, Carlene and Wayne, Les, Sheri and Jim

For those seeking healing and comfort: David, Mary Jo, Matthew, Don B, Gene, Kevin, Denny, Chelsea, Dorothy, Peggy's family, Tracey, Shannon, Freya and family, Katelyn, Ross, Preston, George, Corban, Nicholas F & his family, Cindy & Steve, Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel.

For our community: Those who are struggling with homelessness and much needed shelter.

Psalm of Encouragement:

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase
Psalm 85:12

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spontaneous Christmas Pageant will happen on December 17th during worship. Children and young at heart are invited to come early and dress up as their favorite Christmas Story character. Starman will join us.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Ecumenical Service Dec 24th at 10AM at First Christian Church

Christmas Eve Service with Candlelight and Communion December 24th at 6PM in our sanctuary. Invite a friend!

CCLI Streaming License #2652405

On-line donations are now being accepted. If you wish to support the church ministry by donating with your credit or debit card, click on the “Give Now” link on the church webpage, www.fpclagrande.org, or use the QR code.

