

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Laboring God, with ax and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child holds sway. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, sow seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

arr. Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Prepare the Royal Highway"

arr. John Ferguson, 1983

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Carole Sue Ames, Marjorie Hopkins

Leader: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

People: **"Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky".**

(lighting of the candle)

Leader: Light two candles; see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How two candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**People: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and
righteousness will look down from the sky.**

Leader: Let us pray:

**ALL: Dear God, we have much to do and we are not sure that we
will be ready for the day of your coming. In Advent's light,
help us to see what is important: to be who you want us to be
and to do what you would have us do. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

***Hymn**

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#129

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** *(read in unison)*

**O God, you judge your people with righteousness; we judge our
neighbors either right or wrong. Your Servant defended the cause of
the poor; it is because of our greed that many still want. You bring
deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of its being received.
You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressor, but we raise up
idols in his stead. Make us mindful of your dominion, how you rule
while sun and moon endure. May we bow down before you and pay
you the tribute that you are due. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant supports those in distress, re -
mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faithful - ness.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987
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Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Choir Anthem “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

arr. John Carter, 1984

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 that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face 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.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(We will be receiving communion by coming forward to one of the two stations on each side of the communion table. Please exit the pew to the center aisle and return to your pew from the outside aisles. An elder or deacon will be available to bring communion to those who wish to remain seated. Gluten free bread can be found on the communion table.)

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Leader: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

People: **And may you see the God of hope with you.**

Leader: Open wide our anxious hearts!

People: **We open them to God's peace.**

Leader: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

People: **In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.**

***Hymn of Invitation**

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

#96

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

God of new beginnings, you draw near to us in word and sacrament to strengthen and renew us. Kindle in us the fire of your Spirit; may your light so shine through us that all may welcome your Son at his coming. We ask this in the name of Jesus Emmanuel. Amen.

The Sending of God's People

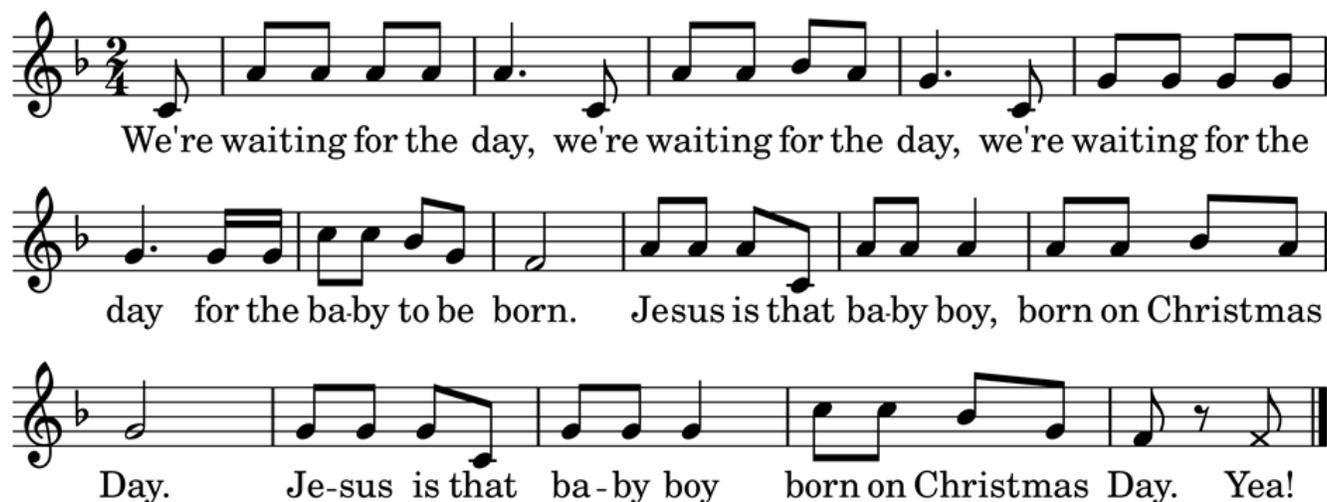
***Closing Hymn**

“Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice”

#163

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response “Advent Song”



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the
day for the ba-by to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

*Postlude

"Lift Up Your Heads"

arr. David Paxton

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Steve Watters

Liturgist: Paul Oswalt

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Acolyte: Devin Griggs