

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Rosemary Sprague

Welcome

We Approach God

Lighting of Candles in the Advent Wreath

We light these candles as a sign of the light of Christ that shines for all. Advent means arrival. We are preparing for the arrival of the risen Lord Jesus. We are preparing ourselves for the days “when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Is 2:4).

“The wolf shall dwell 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” (Is 11:6).

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Call to Worship

Can you imagine? Deep peace is felt and kept by all the animals and peoples in the world.

Can you imagine? The knowledge of the Lord fills the land and God's righteousness reigns over all the earth.

The Lord's light shines on a weary world, illuminating possibility, beckoning us to hope.

With the peace of Christ in our hearts, let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for the salvation of the world. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

Glory to God 108

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!

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word. Now he shines, the long expected. Let creation praise its Lord, 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!

Call to Confession

We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we rejoice that Christ is coming and your kingdom is drawing near! We cannot remain unchanged. Help us to abandon wayward wanderings and return to faithful paths. We confess that we have neglected to plead the case of the poor and ignored the needs of the afflicted. We have denied our part in systems that oppress and turned away from injustice. By your Spirit, renew our minds and transform our hearts, so that our lives might bear the fruit of compassion. Claim us again for your good work until your Son, the Prince of Peace, comes in glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain made low, and the rough places shall be made clear. The glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

God Speaks to Us Through God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Holy Spirit, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 40:1 – 11

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Lesson Luke 1:26 – 37 and Matthew 1:18 – 25

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “Finding Peace in Unexpected Places” The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith Adapted from *The Confession of 1967* 9.19 and 9.27

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to

God's people Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. ...

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Invitation to the Offering

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal the new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

O God of our salvation, we praise you, for you give us every good gift. You speak peace to our hearts. By your power, 'steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.' May we live in gratitude that you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ. We dedicate ourselves to your service as we present these offerings in his name. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication

"Hail to God's Anointed"

Glory to God 149

All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son! All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun! You come to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression and rule in equity.

You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong; to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turned to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in your sight.

You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in your path to birth. Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

All rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring. All nations shall adore you; your praise all people sing. To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend. Your rule is still increasing; your rule is without end.

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson