



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 6, 2009

Eleven o'clock

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Savior of the Nations, Come J.S. Bach

* HYMN 15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers Llangloffan

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The messenger is coming!

People: He will bring the covenant in which we delight.

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted. Every mountain and hill made low.

People: The One foretold is coming, whose cry will pierce the deepest gloom.

Leader: The day is at hand!

People: The Savior draws near!

INTROIT

Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

LUKE 3:4

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshiping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we bring before you these things in our lives that cause you pain. Straighten out the areas in our lives that hinder people from discerning your way and connecting to you. Many people walk through shadowed valleys at this time of year, weighed down by painful memories. Forgive us when we fail to become involved with the needs of others by pleading the hectic nature of the season. You call on us to prepare the way for the birth of our Lord and yet each year it seems we spend more time making preparations for our own pleasure rather than preparing for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts and lives - in our families, our communities, our nation, our world. Forgive us for getting so involved in the Christmas season that we have no energy left to celebrate the reason for such activity - the birth of Jesus Christ. Help us to prepare ourselves faithfully and sincerely to receive the Christ-child, in whose name we pray.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *David, Linda & Jillian Heitner*

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(all sing)*

Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

+ Children and Youth leave for their Bible Study Classes. +

HYMN 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

Psalm 42

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Malachi 3:1-4

SECOND LESSON

Luke 3:1-6

SERMON

“Out of Our Wilderness”

Rev. Richard S. Hong

* NICENE CREED

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus *Joseph Running*
(The text may be found in the Hymnal at No. 1)

* THE DOXOLOGY *Old Hundredth*

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

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal and ever-living God...

 . . . who forever sing to the glory of your name.

SANCTUS 581 (*choir and congregation*) *Joseph Roff*

Pastor: Holy God, in Your mercy . . .

 . . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: We take this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate this Holy Sacrament. ... And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

People: 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. –Revelation 3:20

All who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to participate in this celebration.

BREAD: To be taken individually, symbolic of your personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ.

CUP: Please wait until all are served, symbolic of your corporate belonging together in the body of Christ. Grape juice is the fruit of the vine used in our celebration of the sacrament.

COMMUNION Thou Shalt Know Him *Mark Sirett*

*Thou shalt know him when he comes, Not by any din of drums.
Nor his manners, nor his airs. Nor by anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes.
Not by his crown or by his gown.
But his coming known shall be,
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Amen.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING OUT

* **HYMN 8** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Truro

* **BENEDICTION**

CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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