

Sunday December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

Announcements Joys & Concerns

Prayer for Joys & Concerns**

God in this season suspended between hope and fulfillment, let us never forget what you have done. May we be overwhelmed by your mercy, which flows in wave after wave. May we be honest about the darkness within us, and perceptive of the light around us. May we make straight the path for the Lord, that together we may see God's glory revealed. We praise you for all the joy and thanksgiving that has been shared aloud and in our hearts this day. Please pour out your healing and loving Spirit on those we have shared with one another and privately in our hearts this day. May we offer everything on our minds over to you as we worship you in this place today. In the name of the One who redeems us. Amen.

Advent Wreath Lighting The Caraballo Family

READER ONE:

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ.
More and more candles, more and more light,
as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

ALL:

**God of Promise, come into our darkness.
Renew your hope and peace in us,
for you alone bring life out of death.**

READER TWO:

Receive God's promise of peace from Psalm 4:
Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;
The LORD will hear when we call to him.

ALL:

**Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.
We will lie down and sleep in peace,
For you alone, O LORD, make us dwell in safety.**

Light the candles of hope and peace

ALL SINGING:

Light the Advent candle two: Think of humble shepherds, who filled with wonder at the sight of the child of Christmas night.

Refrain:

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night; candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Centering Music: Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming; arr. by Diane Bish

Call to Worship*

Leader: O come, O come, Immanuel,

People: And be light for our darkness.

Leader: Be comfort in our grief,

People: Be a friend for our loneliness,

Leader: An oasis for our searching.

People: O come, O come, Immanuel,

All: Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Vs. 3 & 4

O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree, an ensign of thy people be; before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Prayer of Confession***

We stop. We turn. We wait for you, God. We've sinned. We've relied on our reputations, or our accomplishments as cover.

Uncover what we've hidden, Lord.

We've said we're sorry, but then we didn't change a thing.

Help us truly repent, Lord. We want to bear good fruit, to be a church that longs for your coming, ready for you. Cleanse our hearts, Holy Spirit.

(Silent Prayer)

Words of Assurance***

Hear the good news. The axe is laid at the foot of the tree. The winnowing fork is at hand.

God cuts down sin's power in our lives, and sweeps away our guilt. We are forgiven!

We are forgiven! Glory to God!

Prayer of Dedication (Blessing Offering)

God of mercy and grace, we pray that the gifts we offer this morning might be used to bring some compassion to the chaos that is our world. We give these gifts in love, hoping they will heal some of the hurting; and as they do, make the crooked road straight for the coming of the Christ. May the hills that separate us from sisters and brothers be made flat and may the valleys of our isolation be raised up, so we will be ready to welcome the Christ as one. In that holy name, we pray. Amen.

Children's Chat

Gods Word

Malachi 3:1-4

The Coming Messenger

3 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. ² But 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; ³ he 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.^[a] ⁴ Then 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

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler^[a] of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler^[b] of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler^[c] of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as 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. ⁵ Every 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; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Message

Communion***

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.** It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

From before all time to the consummation of time you are the Lord, living and true, source of life and love that rings throughout the universe. Angels adore you, seraphim laud you, martyrs praise you, creatures and people of every ability, language and land magnify your name, and we join their eternal chorus:

Holy Holy Holy Lord God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is Christ who comes in your name. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, Eternal God, and blessed is Christ, the Lamb that was slain, seated at your right hand. For in him, O God, you have conquered death, ravaged hell, burst the tomb, broken the chains of evil, and freed all creation from its captivity to corruption. And through him you continue to make all things new. So renew in us by the outpouring of your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that mind which was in Christ Jesus, who, on the night he was betrayed took on the form of a servant, washed the feet of his disciples, and offered them himself, bread as his body, wine as his blood, and commanded them to love one another as he had loved them, as they and we continue to break the bread and drink the cup, remembering our Lord until he should come again in glory.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again

Come, Holy Spirit, on us and on these gifts. Come, Holy Spirit, make them Christ’s body and blood, and renew us as Christ’s body as we receive them. Turn us and keep turning us until we are one with the fullness of God, one in body, mind, and spirit, one with each other, and one in the mission of Christ, to conquer death, break every chain, and renew the whole creation now and at last at the day of his coming. All glory and honor and worship and praise and thanksgiving be to you, Holy Triune God, now and forever. As we continue to prepare our hearts to partake in Holy Communion, let us join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us to say, by saying: ***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. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against***

us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sharing of the bread and cup

Pastoral Prayer after Communion

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Saints, before the alter bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Blessing

Departing Music: Still, Still, Still; arr. Robert Lau German Carol

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** Adapted from weekly Advent reflections by Mark Pierson, <http://adventinart.org>. Reposted: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/08/advent-prayer-between-hope-and.html>

*** <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/second-sunday-of-advent-a-order-of-worship>