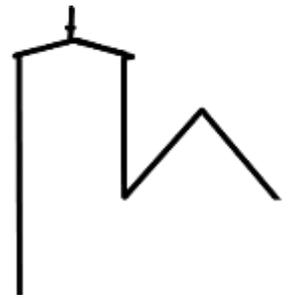


WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1420 West Moss Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61606



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 December 2020

Ten O'clock

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

THE PREPARATION

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

Johann Sebastian Bach

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ... PEACE**

One: *We light the candle of peace.*

All: **Peace is the greatest of God's gifts to his children.**

One: *We ask not for the peace the world gives ...*

All: **We ask for the peace of Christ in our hearts**

One: *Then what shall we do with this peace of Christ ...*

All: **Share it with all the world so that God's kingdom may truly come, here and now.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: *A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear.*

All: **Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.**

For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

**HYMN (see further on in bulletin)*

White Rosettes

Who Would Think that What Was Needed

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(praying together)*

O GOD OF PEACE, we confess we resist peace. We load up our credit cards with things we don't need. We fill our schedules with things that don't need to be done. We become overwhelmed and take out our stress on one another. Help us to discover this Advent season that Your peace is always there for us. When our guilt threatens to overcome us, help us to remember we are forgiven in Christ and be at peace. Lead us to make choices that bring us closer to You.

*TIME OF SILENCE AND PERSONAL CONFESSION

*KYRIE

John Merbecke



Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us. Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ADVENT RESPONSE

Veni Emmanuel

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show;
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[b]
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Psalter

Psalm 85

Canonbury

1. Show us, O Lord, your steadfast love,
And let your saving grace be near;
To those who turn their hearts to him
The Lord speaks peace and I will hear.

2. To everyone who worships him
His saving help is very near
His purpose is that in our land
His radiant glory may appear.

3. Mercy and truth at last have met,
Justice and peace are reconciled;
Truth has arisen from the earth
Justice looked down from heaven and smiled.

4. The Lord will grant prosperity,
Our land will yield its full increase;
Justice shall go before the Lord,
The pathway for his feet is peace.

*from: A New Metrical Psalter, Christopher L. Webber
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Epistle: II Peter 3:8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹ Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³ But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'" ⁶

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Reading together)*

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE GIFTS OF MUSIC

The Prophecy of Zechariah

Kenneth Lowenberg

Now the time came, and Elizabeth bore a son, and he was named John. Then his father, Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "And you, child, will be the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to give light to those that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

SEALING THE WORD

*At the time of the **Distribution of the Elements**, we invite you to open the packaged elements distributed as you entered the church, and partake of them. If you are worshipping along with us at home, please use whatever bread and wine you have available. These are symbols of the body and blood of our Lord, given for us. Christians of any age or church affiliation are welcome at Christ's table, where Christ himself is the host.*

***HYMN 515**

Now to Your Table Spread

Love Unknown

**1. Now to your table spread
We come, each one in faith
That you alone provide
the words of life and death.
In wine and bread,
In promised food
We find your loving heart, O God.**

**2. Hands of the world stretched out
Your mystery to touch
In longing to believe
a truth beyond our reach.
To sing in joy,
To cry in grief,
To know the meaning for our life.**

**3. Here is our commonwealth In sharing what is good,
As though all humankind around one table stood,
This bread to break, This wine to taste;
One people in the name of Christ.**

**Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1987
Music: John Ireland, 1918**

INVITATION

One: *The Lord be with you.*

All: **And also with you.**

One: *Lift up your hearts.*

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

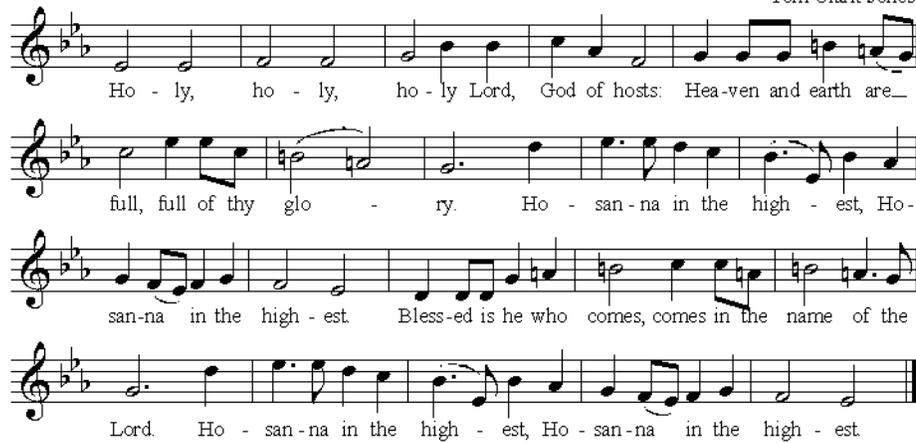
One: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

All: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

SANCTUS

Tom Clark-Jones



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of hosts: Hea-ven and earth are—
full, full of thy glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho -
san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes, comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

COMMUNION PRAYER and MEMORIAL ACCLAMATIONS



Dy-ing you de - stroyed our— death, Ris-ing you re - stored our life,
Lord Je - sus come a - gain— in— glo - ry!

THE CONSECRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *[praying together]*

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.

*These are holy things, to keep us holy. Gifts of God for the people of God.
Let us keep the feast.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

Jesu, joy of man's desiring, Holy wisdom, Love most bright; Drawn by thee, our souls aspiring, soar to uncreated light. Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, with the fire of life impassioned. Striving still to Truth unknown, Soaring, dying round thy throne.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN 10

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

4. All praise to you, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1736

Music: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Rejoice, Rejoice!

12th century Latin

LEADING IN WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, *Pastor*
Thomas Clark-Jones, *Organist-Choirmaster*
The Quartet of Westminster Church
Melissa Blain, soprano; Kate Kortemeier, alto
J. Douglas McQueen, tenor; David Kortemeier, baritone
Elder Larry Hicks, *Video Producer*

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LOOKING AHEAD ... The traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented by the Westminster Quartet with Thomas Clark-Jones at the organ and Rev. Denise Clark-Jones reading the lessons on Sunday afternoon, December 20 at four in the afternoon. Programs for this service will be available on line at www.westminsterpeoria.org. so that you will be able to sing along with the carols at home. Later that same week, our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service will take place on December 24 at four in the afternoon. Join us to keep our fellowship and worshipping community alive through this time of national health emergency. We look forward to next Christmas when we can all worship together here on Moss Avenue with the full choir and handbell choir leading us in these festive Christmas events. Peace!

OPEN HANDS, OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS

138 Who Would Think That What Was Needed

1 Who would think that what was need - ed to trans -
 2 Shep - herds watch and wise men won - der; mon - archs
 3 Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci - ence span the

form and save the earth might not be a
 scorn and an - gels sing; such a place as
 past from which we move, yet ex - pe - rience

plan or ar - my, proud in pur - pose, proved in
 none would reck - on hosts a ho - ly help - less
 ques - tions wheth - er, with such prog - ress, we im -

worth? Who would think, de - spite de - ri - sion, that a
 thing. Sta - ble beasts and by - passed strang - ers watch a
 prove. While the hu - man lot we pon - der, lest our

child should lead the way?
 ba - by laid in hay; God sur - pris - es earth with
 hopes and hu - mor fray,

heav - en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

Words and Music: John Bell, the Iona Community, Scotland
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We do not presume to come to this thy Table,
 O merciful Lord,
 trusting in our own righteousness,
 but in thy manifold and great mercies.
 We are not worthy so much
 as to gather up the crumbs
 under thy Table.
 But thou art the same Lord,
 whose property is always to have mercy:
 Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
 so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
 and to drink his blood,
 that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen

... from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6 DECEMBER 2020

WESTMINSTER CHURCH OF PEORIA

A Presbyterian Church, USA in the Presbytery of the Great Rivers

1420 West Moss Avenue +++ Peoria, Illinois 61606

www.westminsterpeoria.org