

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

November 29, 2020

10:30 a.m.

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace” Luke 2:14

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The Organ Prelude

Welcome

Introit

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come all who seek truth—let us go up to the Lord’s house,

that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.

Come—all nations, all peoples—stream through open gates,

that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.

Come—children of God—let us walk in the light of the Lord!

With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.

ADVENT MEDITATION

Advent Candle Song (see insert)

*** PRAISE TO GOD**

* Hymn #124 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, You set before us the way of goodness and beckon us to follow you, but we disregard your teachings and disobey your word. You call people of every land to dwell in harmony, but we sow division and harvest discord. You command us to craft tools that sustain life, but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy. Forgive us, Lord. Your creation yearns for wholeness; your people long for justice and peace. Keep us ever watchful and awaken us to your ways as we wait in hope for the light of the world. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Hear the good news! You have come to the right place, to the house of the Lord, where we pray for each other’s good.

People: Friends, believe the Good News!

Unison: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri

(#623 Hymnal)

JLK

GOD’S WORK IN PRAYER

Prayer Concerns

Pastor’s Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Response

GOD’S WORD

Scripture: Mark 13:24-37

Sermon: “Keep Watch”

Choir Anthem: “Eilene and Chris”

*Hymn #123 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

GOD’S WORK AND WORSHIP IN GIVING

Announcements and Pew Registration

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Prayer

* Hymn #125 “Joy to the World!”

* Benediction

*Response

* Postlude

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent Candle Song Verse One

Light the Advent candle one;
Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way,
Time to think of Christmas Day.

Chorus:

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

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is what was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

The voice of John the Baptist is calling to us across the ages saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” He came to warn the people of his time to prepare themselves for the coming of the Messiah. He came to force them to face their sins. He came to call them to repentance. He came to wash their sins away, and to make their hearts fit to receive Christ.

Today on this first Sunday in Advent, he calls to us, too, but what he asks isn’t easy. John wants us to see ourselves as we really are, with all of our weaknesses and imperfections. He wants us to take the responsibility for our own sins. He’ll accept no finger pointing, and no passing the buck.

It would be much easier for us to rest comfortably in the shadows, and ignore John’s call. It would be much easier to busy ourselves with worldly preparations like hanging decorations and buying presents, but what a reward he offers us! If we have the courage to answer John’s call, our sins will be washed away! Our hearts will be prepared to receive our Savior! How will we respond?

Let us light the first candle of our Advent Wreath, the **Candle of Repentance**. (Light the first candle.)

Unison Prayer:

Dear Lord, you sent John the Baptist to call the people of his day and ours to repentance, but we are so comfortable in the darkness. It hides our sins, even from us. Forgive us, Father. As we enter into the season of Advent, give us the courage to open our hearts to your light. Help us to face our sins, and then, let the fire of repentance burn them away. Make us clean, Lord, so that our hearts may be fit to receive your Son. We pray in his name. Amen.