



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES *(Luke 2:8-10)*

Rev. John White

One: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

ALL: *Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.*

One: But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid: for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

PRELUDE

Fantasy on Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Lovelace

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Rejoice and Sing

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Chancel Choir

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jesus, We Will Sing

Cathy Skogen-Soldner

QUEST Kids

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chuck, Sharyn, Luke, Sam, Charlie and Amelia Thompson

RESPONSE *(all singing, refrain only from Hymn: 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 269** *Lead On, O King Eternal!*

LANCASHIRE

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Holy and righteous God, often we are far from the holiness into which You invite us. And often we fail to live up to your righteous standards for how we are called to live. Refine us with your righteous refiner's fire to remove all our sinful impulses and impurities. Cleanse us with the fuller's soap to make us pure and holy once again. Help us to live in a way that would be pleasing to you, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: We are not perfect, but we do not need to be. God in Christ is! And God in Christ has taken care of us and this world once again: "Every valley shall be filled ... and the rough ways made smooth." In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

ALL: *Thanks be to God. Amen.*

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 We Are Forgiven**

WE ARE FORGIVEN

*We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: *And, also, with you.*

THE WORD

ACT OF PRAISE

Canticle of the Turning
Chancel Choir

Irish melody

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION: BICENTENNIAL

Jenny Craig

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. John White

***HYMN: 137 He Came Down**

HE CAME DOWN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 9:6-7 (pg. 638)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God for the people of God.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

**Congregation standing, if able*

NEW TESTAMENT READING *Philippians 4:8-9* (pg. 198-199)

Rev. John White

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word
of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Peacemaker

Rev. John White

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Revelation 21:1-5*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center aisle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Rev. Courtney Bowen

OFFERTORY

Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Held

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. Courtney Bowen

SENDING

***HYMN: 623** *I've Got Peace Like a River*

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Come, Lord Jesus

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Chancel Choir

(We request that you remain seated until after the Postlude and ask that you use the Postlude as a time to reflect upon the scripture that was read in today's service.)

POSTLUDE

Magnificat Fugue in G Major

Pachelbel

Dr. Terry McRoberts