

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9, 2018

10:00 a.m.

This service is being broadcast over radio station WATN 1240

\* Indicates that those who are able may stand.

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Three Advent Carols

Wake, Awake, a Voice Is Calling; Veni Emmanuel; People, Look East, the Time Is Near

Carl Bingle, FPC Organist

Grimoaldo Macchia

GREETING

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

PRELUDE

Venite Adoremus Dominum (Come Let's Adore the Lord) Trad., arr. Wilbur Held

The English version of this carol begins, "The Snow lay on the ground, the sky shone bright, when Christ our Lord was born that Christmas night..."

Held (1914-2015), a prolific organ composer, published this in 2007. The minor section is heard on the west antiphonal organ strings and reeds.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - Candle of Peace

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ adapted from Luke 1:68-75

Leader: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

People: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of David,  
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
that we would be saved from our enemies and  
from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

Let us worship God!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Wednesday, December 12 at 6:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall

There will be a potluck dinner, some activities and a carol-sing along,  
as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child.

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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

~ Malachi 3:1-4



IN NEED  
OF PRAYER

Shane McWayne, Gerda Barbour, JoAnne Stirling, Ralph Green, and for the sick and those who need God's comfort.

**Prayer Help Available.** Please call the church office, 782-1750 if you have a prayer request. Your confidential prayer request will be put on the First Pres. Prayer Chain. Only those requesting public prayers are included for prayers in our church bulletin.



THIS WEEK

December 12 Samantha Jones

**\*HYMN #648**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

BEECHER

**INVITATION TO REPENTANT PRAYERS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness, and preferred it to light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Level down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Make straight a path in the wilderness of our lives that lead us back to you. Prepare us once again for life in your kingdom.**

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

**WORDS OF COMFORT AND FORGIVENESS**

. . . in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**In Jesus Christ you are also forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE - You Are My Hiding Place - Hymn #700**

*You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance; Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. I will trust in You. Let the weak say, I am strong in the strength of the Lord!*

**LITURGIST WELCOME**

**THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST READING**

Malachi 3:1-4 (Old Testament, pages 889-890 in pew Bibles)

**ANTHEM**

*Glory to God!*

arr. Benjamin Harlan

Chancel Choir; Sara Gleason, director; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

(At this time we invite all K-7th graders to join us for Sunday School, please have children follow the teacher thru the door on the left. Children will meet parents in Fellowship Hall after the service. As children depart for Sunday School, we sing “*Jesus Loves Me*” Hymn #185, verse 1.)

**SECOND READING**

Luke 3:1-6 (New Testament, page 60 in pew Bibles)

**SERMON**

“A Path in the Wilderness”

Rev. Casey Carbone

**\*HYMN #224**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

*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.*

**OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY SOLO**

*All Is Well*

Smith/Kirkpatrick

David Elmer, soloist; Phyllis Elmer, piano; Carl Bingle, organ

**\*DOXOLOGY ~ HYMNAL #815**

*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.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**SENDING**

**\*HYMN #634**

*More Love to Thee, O Christ*

MORE LOVE TO THEE

**\*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare on Isaiah 40*

G. Macchia (2017)

From the west antiphonal organ’s Fanfare Trumpet and Tuba Major, “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People; Speak of peace, thus says our God.” The full Chancel organ repeats this phrase, and the dialogue echoes from one end of our sanctuary to the other. The Advent hymn of the Reformed Church was published in the 1551 Genevan Psalter.

Carl Bingle, organ