

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Order of Service for the Worship of God

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE ~ *Prelude, Fugue, & Chaconne in C-Major* (I. Prelude), Dietrich Buxtehude ~ Ben Heizer

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *O Come to Us, Our Lord, Emmanuel* Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Genesis 49:10; Zechariah 6:12b; Jeremiah 23: 5-6

L: The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his feet; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

P: Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall grow up in his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD."

L: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

P: "In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert, watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Bulletin Insert

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candle of Prophecy: ~ The Turnage Family

SUNG RESPONSE: (Tune, *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*)

O come, Thou whom the prophets did foretell;

And John the Baptist spoke of Thee as well.

The Holy Spirit's word did come true,

And humankind did see God's face in You.

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



UNISON PRAYER ~ Loving God, you foretold the coming of the Christ, the Messiah, into the world. You kept your promise. Help us to fulfill our promises to you, as beneficiaries of your grace and salvation, and as disciples of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S LESSON (*Preschool through 2nd grade children may be led to Junior Church following the children's message. Older children's bulletins are in the vestibule.*)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

Holy God, you judge your people with righteousness, but we judge our neighbors by our own standards of right and wrong. Prophets called your people to justice and obedience, and John the Baptist warned us to bear good fruit. Forgive us when we withhold grace and mercy from others. Re-direct our lives and actions to be witnesses of your love for all people, we pray in Christ's name. (Silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

An Advent Alleluia ~ Douglas E. Wagner

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1st OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11 ~ Page 619 in the pew Bible

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

2nd OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Malachi 3:1-2a; 4:5-6 ~ Pages 830-831 in pew Bible

Behold, I send 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, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

***HYMN**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#245

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Mark 1: 1-8 ~ Page 867 in the pew Bible

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

L: This is the word of the Lord; **P: Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Promise of Messiah" Rev. Frank Wyche
*HYMN *Heralds of Christ* Bulletin Insert
OFFERING
OFFERTORY *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ~ Johannes Brahms
*DOXOLOGY #815
PRAYER OF DEDICATION
JOYS AND CONCERNS
MORNING PRAYER AND **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (...debtors/debtors...)
*HYMN *O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful* #282
*BENEDICTION
*CHORAL RESPONSE *Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming* Chancel Choir
POSTLUDE ~ *Prelude, Fugue, & Chaconne in C-Major* (III. Chaconne) ~ D. Buxtehude

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

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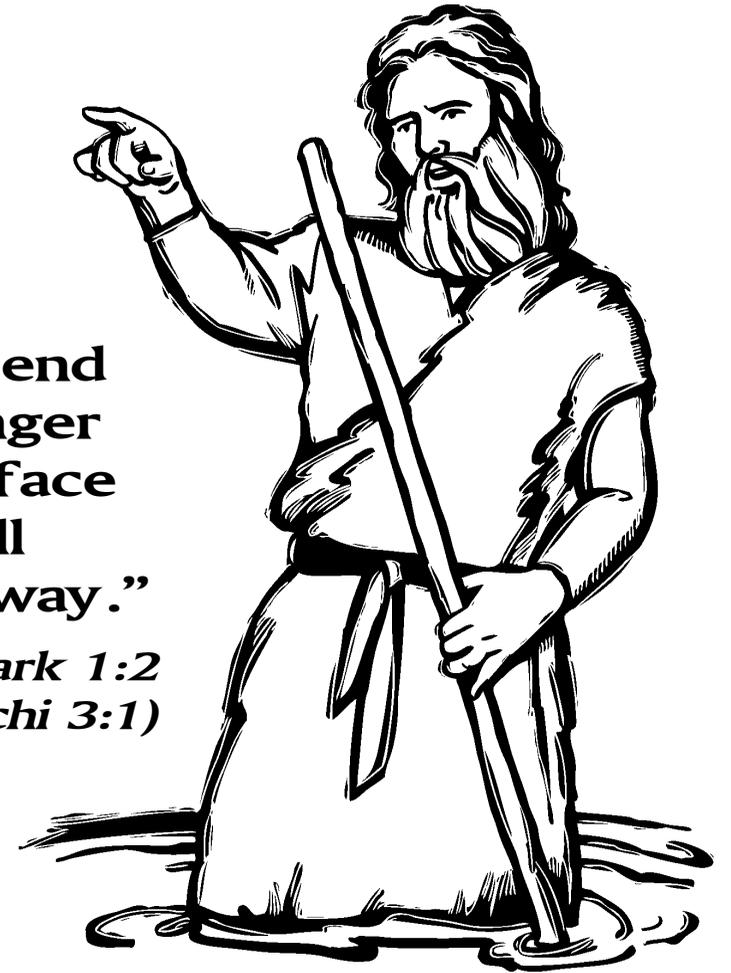
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Office Hours: Mon.-Tues., and
Thurs.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
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Clerk of Session: Larry Mayer

Second Sunday
in Advent



**"Behold, I send
my messenger
before thy face
who shall
prepare thy way."**

*~Mark 1:2
(from Malachi 3:1)*

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