

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ 2 Peter 3: 2-4, 8-9, 14-15a ~ Pages 1063-1064 in pew Bible

You should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles. First of all you must understand this, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and saying, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation.”

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Therefore, beloved, as you wait, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation.

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

SERMON “Christ Will Come in God’s Time” Rev. Frank Wyche

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles’ Creed* Inside front cover of Hymnal

\*HYMN *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* #267

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (...debtors/debtors...)

\*HYMN *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* #251

\*BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *Redeemer, Come!* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Carolyn Wallace

\*Those who are able may stand.

**BOLDFACE TYPE** indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.

## **HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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Prepare  
the way  
of the  
LORD.

ISAIAH 40:3

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December 4, 2016 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

# HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 4, 2016

2nd Sunday in Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Carolyn Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Chancel Choir

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 72: 1-2, 4-5, 7, 17-19

L: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son! May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

**P: May he defend the cause of the poor, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor!**

L: May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**P: In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound, till the moon is no more! May his name endure forever, and his fame continue as long as the sun!**

L: May all people bless themselves by him, all nations call him blessed! Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**P: Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth! Amen, and Amen!**

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

**Eternal Father, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance, and to prepare the way for our salvation; and your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Holy Spirit, give us grace and guidance to heed their warnings and to forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, for we pray these things in his name. Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH,**

*~The Candle of Prophecy*

L: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Last week we lit the Candle of Glory, reminding us of the trustworthy promise that Christ will one day return in glory.

**P: Today we light the Candle of Prophecy. God had a plan for the salvation of all humankind, which would be accomplished through the coming of the Son as Emmanuel, "God with us," when the Son laid aside his glory to be born as a human.**

L: God announced this plan through prophets, who called people to repentance, and who announced hope to those who lived in the darkness of death, despair, and desperation.

**P: As the prophets were faithful in declaring God's word to God's people, so may we proclaim the truth of our Lord and Savior Jesus in our words, and in our lives.**

\*HYMN

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#244

CALL TO CONFESSION

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ~ From *When We Gather*, Rev. James G. Kirk

**Holy God, you judge your people with righteousness, but we judge others as right or wrong according to our opinions. Your servant, our Lord Jesus, defended the cause of the poor, but it is because of our greed that many are still in want. You bring deliverance to the needy, but we stand in the way of its being received. You send us a Savior who will crush the oppressor, but we oppress other people and nations, raising up personal and national idols instead of submitting to Christ's will. Make us mindful that your rule and dominion last as long as sun and moon endure, and lead us to worship and obey you as you have commanded.** *(Silent prayer and personal confession)*

**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

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S LESSON ~ *Children through 5th grade may go to Junior Church afterward*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1st OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Malachi 3: 1-2; 4: 5-6 ~ Pages 830-831 in the 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 parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

2nd OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 13; 2: 1-4, 14 ~ pp. 811-812 pew Bible

The oracle of God which Habakkuk the prophet saw: O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you, "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongs and look upon trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is slacked and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous, so that justice goes forth perverted.

You, who are of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look on sin, why do you look upon faithless people without acting, and you are silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?

I will take my stand to watch, and station myself on the tower, and look forth to see what God will say to me, and what will be answered concerning my complaint. And the LORD answered me: "Write the vision; make it so plain upon tablets that even those running past may read it. For still the vision awaits its time; it hastens to the end – it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. Behold, those whose soul is not upright within them shall fail, but the righteous shall live by their faith.

