

knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

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

SERMON “The Prophets’ Call to Prepare” Rev. Frank Wyche

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

\***HYMN** *Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming* #255

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

\***DOXOLOGY** #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

\***HYMN** *On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry* **Bulletin Insert**

\***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL CLOSE *Emmanuel* Chancel Choir

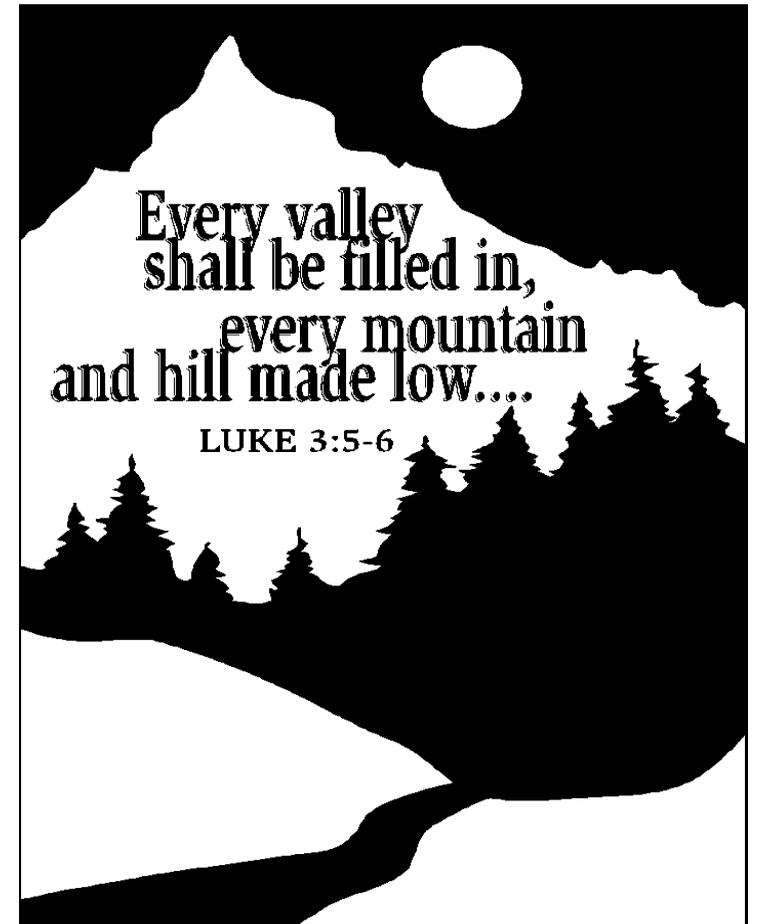
POSTLUDE Alessio Giacobone

\*Those who are able may stand

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**



**Hebron Presbyterian Church**

**423 Hebron Road**

**Staunton, VA 24401**

**Telephone: 540-885-1648**

**Email: hebronchurch@msn.com**

**December 6, 2015 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent**

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 6, 2015

2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*UNISON SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

#244

\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

~ Candle of Glory

L: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Last week we lit the Candle of Glory; today we light the Candle of Prophecy.

**P: We remember that our Risen Lord and Savior reigns in glory, and one day he will return in glory; and we know that God’s messengers, the prophets, have brought us God’s word of restoration and renewal.**

L: The prophets also call us to repentance to prepare for Christ’s return, that we might be cleansed and corrected before the coming of Jesus in glory.

**P: We rejoice and thank God that we have graciously been warned to prepare, and told how to be acceptable by faith, as we live and walk according to God’s commands.**

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP ~ Isaiah 9:2, 60:1-2, Psalm 119:105, 43:3

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**P: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.**

L: Your word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.

**P: Oh send out your light and your truth; let them lead me, let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!**

\*UNISON OPENING PRAYER

**Eternal Father, by the Holy Spirit speaking through your prophets, you foretold the coming of a Messiah who would lead us into light. In Jesus Christ, the light of the world, you not only gave us your servant, but your very self. Come to us again in this time of worship, we pray in his name. Amen.**

\*HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#245

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

**Holy God, we come seeking forgiveness of our sins according to your steadfast love and abounding mercy. Our valleys are deep, for we are burdened by our many cares.**

Alessio Giacobone

Second Sunday of Advent



**Our mountains are high, for sin and temptation pull us back. We grope our way through a maze of tangled allegiances and alliances, reaping the pain and disappointment of our bad choices, willful actions, and foolish gambles. You promised to bring light, and that all flesh shall see your salvation. Show us the straight path and the smooth way that lead to your righteousness, we pray in the name of Jesus, who is the way.** *(Silent prayer and personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON ~ Ephesians 1: 5-8

L: God destined us in love to be his children through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

**P: In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us.**

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

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

\*GLORIA PATRI

#813

ANTHEM

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

Chancel Choir

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Malachi 3: 1-4 ~ Page 830 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? 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 1:67-80, 3:1-6 ~ Pages 889, 890-891 in the pew Bible

And his [John the Baptist’s] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give