

scendants 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.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. And God will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents and ancestors, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.”

GOSPEL LESSON ~ John 1: 6-8, 19-29 ~ Page 922 in the pew Bible

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah? He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” They said to him then, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know, even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

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

SERMON “The Message of John the Baptist” Rev. Frank Wyche

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

\*HYMN *Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming* #255

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

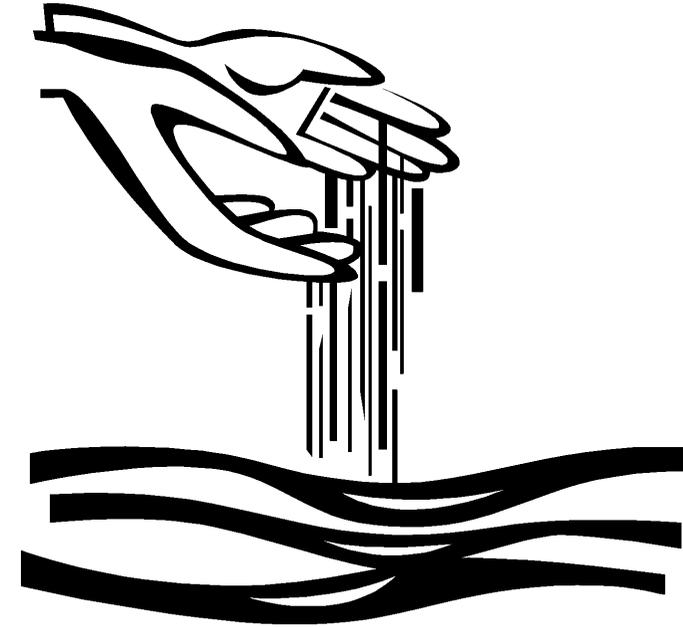
JOYS AND CONCERNS; MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSE *Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Adam Kelly, Accompanist



**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 your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make God’s paths straight.” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ~ Mark 1:1-4**

**Hebron Presbyterian Church**  
**423 Hebron Road**  
**Staunton, VA 24401**  
**Telephone: 540-885-1648**  
**Email: myhebronpc@gmail.com**  
**December 9, 2018 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent**

# HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Adam Kelly, Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Chancel Choir

**\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Luke 3: 1-6

L: 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;

**P: And he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

L: 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.

**P: “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.”**

**\*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.**

**\*HYMN**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#245

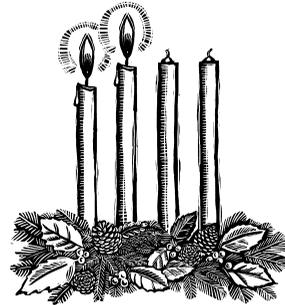
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~ *The Candle of Promise*

L: Today we light the Candle of Promise. By the prophets, God promised a Messiah to “to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved of Israel,” and to be “a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)

**P: Through Israel, God will bless all people. In making covenant with him, God told Abraham, “by you all the [peoples, nations, and] families of the earth shall be blessed.”** (Genesis 12:3b)

L: The birth of Jesus was not only a promise fulfilled for Israel, but was a blessing for all humanity, for the angel told the shepherds, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

**P: By faith in Jesus Christ we are made God’s children (John 1:12) and God’s people.**



Second Sunday in Advent

We have become “God’s own people, that [we] may declare the wonderful deeds of the One who called [us] out of darkness, and into God’s marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9b)

L: The promises of God are trustworthy and true, and are not limited to the past, for “the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off – everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” (Acts 2:39)

**P: Jesus promises eternal life to all who believe: “whoever comes to me I will not cast out. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise them up at the last day.”** (John 6: 37b, 39)

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

**Holy God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah by calling your people to repentance, so they would turn away from sin, and back to you. Forgive us for remembering John’s strong rebukes of those sinners of his own time and place, but somehow thinking his message is not for us as well. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child into the world, help us to examine ourselves, and to see ourselves clearly, that we may repent and change our ways. In a season of holiness, lead us to put away all sinful and selfish behaviour, that we may receive Christ anew.**

*(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

*Let the Christ Child In*

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

1st OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Deuteronomy 18: 15-19 ~ Page 168 in the pew Bible

[Moses told the Israelites,] “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren – him you shall heed – just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

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

[The LORD says,] “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 de-