

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 your face, who shall prepare your 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 ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes One 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."

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON ~ 2 Peter 3: 8-9, 13-15a ~ Pages 1063-1064 in pew Bible

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.

According to his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, as you wait for this, be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and be 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 "Redeemed by Love" Rev. Frank Wyche

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

*HYMN *I Will Sing of My Redeemer* #309

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS, MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN *Love Has Come!* #256

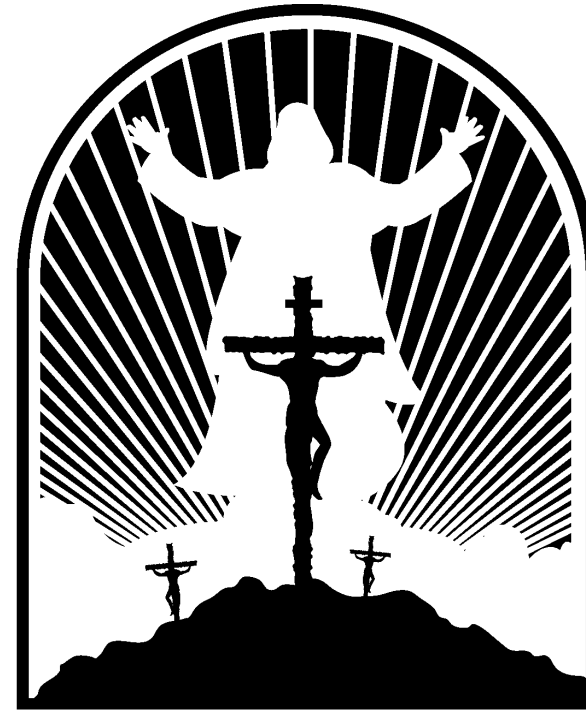
*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *O God of Love, O King of Peace* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Carolyn Wallace

*Those who are able may stand.

BOLDFACE TYPE indicates words spoken or sung by the congregation.



For God so loved the world...

~ John 3:16

**Greater love has no one than this,
that he lay down his life for his friends.**

~ John 15:13

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December 10, 2017 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday in Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Carolyn Wallace

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* Chancel Choir

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP ~ John 15: 9-10, 12-15, 17

L: [Jesus said] "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

P: "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments, and I abide in his love.

L: "This is my commandment: that you love one another as I have loved you.

P: "No one has greater love than this: that he would lay down his life for his friends.

L: "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing;

P: "But I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you. This I command you, to love one another."

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

Eternal Father, you straighten the winding ways of our hearts, and smooth the paths made rough by our sins. Make our conduct blameless, keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. We ask this through Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

~The Candle of Love

L: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Last week we lit the Candle of Hope, reminding us of the guaranteed and reliable promise that Christ will return in glory.

P: Today we light the Candle of Love. God accomplished our salvation when Jesus, who is God the Son, died on the cross for our sins, and was raised again to life on the third day.

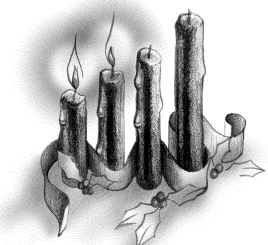
L: In love, Jesus ransomed and redeemed us, trading his life for ours to pay for our sins.

P: God now calls humanity to respond to this love, acknowledging that the power of God's love is greater than death, and the depth of God's love is greater than we can comprehend. By faith in Jesus, we are restored to God, and given eternal life.

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #648

CALL TO CONFESSION ~ John 3: 16-17

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.



UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, forgive us when we do not live up to your standard of love. You saved us from sin and death out of your great love, but we do not love others as you have commanded us. You promise a day of redemption and restoration when Jesus will return to rule the world in glory, but we want you to bring vengeance and punishment to those we condemn. You desire no one's destruction, but we judge others as being beyond your love and grace. Paul said that love fulfils the law, but we declare others guilty, while blindly overlooking our own sin and disobedience. Scripture tells us that "love covers a multitude of sins," so we ask you to increase our love. Forgive our coldness and hardness of heart, and lead us to love others, just as much as you love us.

(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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Chancel Choir

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON ~ Isaiah 40: 1-11 ~ 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 shall 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." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. 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 that are with young.