

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 7, 2014

2nd Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Luis González, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Lift Up Your Heads

Chancel Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~ Incorporating Isaiah 2:4; 11:16

L: Today is the second Sunday of Advent. We light the second candle of our Advent Wreath as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

P: “Advent” means “coming.” We are preparing ourselves for the day:

L: When the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

P: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.



Second Sunday of Advent

***SUNG RESPONSE** (Tune: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, #245)

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

Eternal Father, your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Psalm 85: 8-11, 13

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

P: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

P: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Righteousness will go before him, and make his footsteps a way.

***OPENING HYMN**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#245

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

Eternal Lord, you are God of the future, as well as the past and present, and you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected or prepared for your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, hold grudges, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ returns to judge the world.
(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

Advent Cry

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S LESSON (No Children's Church during December.)

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 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.

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 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.”

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

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. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be kindled and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire! But according to his promise we wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you wait for these, 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 “Second Sunday of Advent ~ Preparing the Way” Rev. Frank Wyche

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

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry* Bulletin Insert

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

*HYMN *Heralds of Christ* Bulletin Insert

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Holy Spirit, All Divine* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Luis González, Organist

Prepare
the way
of the
LORD.

ISAIAH 40:3

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