

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service on Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

Pre-Service Music: *The Gallery Carol* - Edward Broughton

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Noel Suisse* - Louis-Claude Daquin

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A voice cries out in the wilderness: **“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**
A choir sings in the silence, **“Come, Emmanuel.”**
Every valley shall be filled. **Every heart shall be made whole,**
for peace is stronger than turmoil, **and love is louder than hate.**
As we light our second Advent candle,
we pray for the holy peace of God.

Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Peace.

Advent Prayer

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

Introit: *Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah G2G85 v. 2*

Call to Worship

A voice cries, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Lift every valley; lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming

give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn #87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* (please stand)

Call to Confession

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean;
but there is mercy for those
who call on the name of the Lord.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped.
We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see.
We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear.
We are numb to inconvenient truths.
Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors.
Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue.
Sharpen our minds clouded by worries.
Sober our lives addicted to privilege.
Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you,
the Son of Man, in whose name we pray. Amen**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.
Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #581: *Glory Be to the Father*

Anthem: *Every Valley*

Patti Drennan

Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Hymn: #106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray:

Alleluia, Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia. Let us hear God's word this day. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3: 1 – 6

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prepare the Way

Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn #498: *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken vs. 2, 3*

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from north and south, from east and west, to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.

We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin.

We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to

sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer After Communion

Most High God, you have come among us in this place. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest

Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, in response to your love and as a concrete expression of our faith and commitment to Christ and his church, we commit to supporting the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Receive now these estimates of giving as we seek to build your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray, **Amen.**

Sending Hymn#498 *Loaves Were Broken vs. 4* (remain standing)

Benediction: (remain standing)

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace
in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *All Heaven Rejoices* - Christina Becket (please be seated)

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, and the Chancel Choir. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.

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