

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for the Second Sunday in Advent**

*December 4, 2022*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Swiss Noel* - Louis Claude D'Aquin, edited by Diane Bish

**Welcome and Announcements**

- Christian education has begun – Wednesdays 10:30 am (sanctuary), Thursdays 7:00 pm (sanctuary or Zoom)
- Christmas Joy Offering – through December 28 – special envelopes available
- GRACE for Christmas items due December 11

**Prelude:** *Sussex Carol* - Alfred V. Fedak

**Lighting of the Advent Candle – Advent 2**

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.**

**GTG 103:** *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* vs. 2

**Call to Worship**

God's vision of peace is a realm where all live together in harmony:

**enemies become friends, fear gives way to understanding.**

God calls us to be this community;

**let us gather together to worship.**

Let us pray:

### Prayer of the Day

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace: 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 #94:      *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*      (please stand)

### Call to Confession

John the Baptist's cry echoes through the ages:

**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!**

Here and now:

**We go to God in humility and faith, confessing our sins.**

### Prayer of Confession

**God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kingdom. Amen**

### Declaration of Pardon

Christ comes into our world— Christ comes into our lives— to purify us and give us another chance.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. We rejoice in the hope Christ offers us!  
Thanks be to God!**

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

### Passing the Peace of Christ

**Gloria #113:** "Gloria" refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Anthem:** *Come to Us, Emmanuel*      Carmen Scialla

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

## **Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*Worship leader will lead the prayers.* God, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing you know our deepest need. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, in Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

## **Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(please stand)

**Doxology:** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* sung to *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Praise God from whom all ble-ssings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures he-re below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Our gifts we bring to thee, O Lord, Amen.

## **Prayer of Dedication:**

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these tithes and offerings for the work of your church in this place. Make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Hymn for Illumination#89:** *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* vs. 2

Choir or soloist sings the opening refrain. All present sing the verse and additional refrain.

## **Scriptures for the Day**

A voice is crying in the wilderness:  
**Listen to the word of the Lord.**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1 – 10

**Epistle Lesson:** Romans 15:4 - 13

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 3:1 – 12

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** *Burning the Chaff* Jonathan Kimball

**Communion Hymn#498** *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken vs 1, 2, 3*

**Advent Communion Liturgy** Written by Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator, Worship, Music, and Spirituality, General Council Office United Church of Canada

...all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray: *(The following prayer was inspired by "Blessed are you, gracious God..." by William Kervin and Lillian Perigoe in Celebrate God's Presence, page 276. Used with permission.)*

Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life...

...We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us;

**in womb and tomb,  
in cradle and cross,  
in tenderness and compassion.**

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people, "**O come, Emmanuel.**"

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness.

**All sing: Hymn #88-** *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"* vs. 1

At this time, we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast.  
We pray for:...

...Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.  
Make us, though broken, whole.  
Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus:

**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 CUP**

The body of Christ,  
**the Bread of life.**  
The lifeblood of Christ,  
**the cup of blessing.**  
Let us eat and drink together  
for our strengthening in the faith,  
and for the sake of the world.

*Communion is served*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray:

**God, our Provision, we rejoice that you satisfy our needs. By your presence in this meal you have fed us and strengthened us, as a mother nourishes her baby. In this waiting season fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs of your kingdom all around us and rejoice in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn 106#:**      *Prepare the Way, O Zion*      (stand)

**Benediction:**      (remain standing)

May the God of peace make you holy and the power of the Spirit sustain you  
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.      **Alleluia!**      1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Prepare the way of the Lord!      **Amen.**      Isaiah 40:3; Mark 1:3

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 Jeff Sandquist.  
Worship led by Carol Bennett and sermon provided by Jonathan Kimball.*

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