

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

December 8, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *Reflection on an Ancient Plainsong*—Michael Ryan

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Sussex Carol* – Alfred V. Fedak

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

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 Candle Song #103: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* vs. 2

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

God's salvation has come and even now it is on its way.
Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us!
Hallelujah!

Prayer of the Day

God of the wilderness, you have always sent your prophets to lead us to repentance, to make a way for your salvation to arrive. Help us this day to receive your presence, removing every hindrance and obstacle to your Spirit's work. Make your salvation known from every segment of our lives to every corner of this earth. Amen.

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

Call to Confession

In Jesus Christ God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin.

With humility and hope let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

This is good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: *Gloria Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High*

Anthem: *Hear the Voice* Carmen Scialla

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

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among church leadership and all of the baptized.

Lord in your mercy, **Receive our prayer.**

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

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

Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3:1 – 4

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1: 3 - 11

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1 - 6

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

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Wait Until Your Father Gets Home* Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19* (stand)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #710: *We Lift Our Voices*

Prayer of Dedication:

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. 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.

Hymn #105: *People, Look East* vs. 1, 2, 3, and NEW (stand)

Now you must go to share the Word,
with all you meet it shall be heard.
Prepare the way, for Jesus' birth,
Lord and Savior of the earth.

People look east and sing today, Love the Lord is on the way.

Charge and 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!

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

Postlude: *All Heaven Rejoices* – Christina Becket

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