



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 9, 2012

Eleven o'clock

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE Variations on “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” Georg Böhm

* **HYMN 15** Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers Llangloffan

* **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: The messenger is coming!

People: He will bring the covenant in which we delight.

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted. Every mountain and hill made low.

People: The One foretold is coming, whose cry will pierce the deepest gloom.

Leader: The day is at hand!

People: The Savior draws near!

INTROIT

Richard Proulx

Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths. Rejoice, the Lord is at hand!

LUKE 3:4

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we bring before you these things in our lives that cause you pain. Straighten out the areas in our lives that hinder people from discerning your way and connecting to you. Many people walk through shadowed valleys at this time of year, weighed down by painful memories. Forgive us when we fail to become involved with the needs of others by pleading the hectic nature of the season. You call on us to prepare the way for the birth of our Lord and yet each year it seems we spend more time making preparations for our own pleasure rather than preparing for Jesus to be born anew in our hearts and lives - in our families, our communities, our nation, our world. Forgive us for getting so involved in the Christmas season that we have no energy left to celebrate the reason for such activity - the birth of Jesus Christ. Help us to prepare ourselves faithfully and sincerely to receive the Christ-child, in whose name we pray.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News:
in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks
through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Candida and Jeremiah Urena

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(all sing)*

Rejoice, rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* THE APOSTLES' CREED *(in unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

QUESTIONS OF INTENT

PRAYER

THE BAPTISM OF LAURINE SOO JUNG PAK

PRAYER

Pastor: Eternal God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people ... Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever.

People: Remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will, and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF BIBLE

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

TIME WITH CHILDREN

* HYMN 3 Comfort, Comfort You My People Psalm 42

+ Children and Youth leave for Church School Classes. +

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON Malachi 3:1-4

ANTHEM Veni Emmanuel Zoltan Kodaly
(The translation may be found in the Hymnal at No. 9)

SECOND LESSON Luke 3:1-6

SERMON “Unavoidable Reality” Rev. Richard S. Hong

OFFERTORY Springs in the Desert Jennings

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, “Be strong fear not behold your God will come and save you!” The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return with songs and everlasting joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. ISAIAH 35

* THE DOXOLOGY Old Hundredth

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD’S 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.

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 10 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *Winchester New*

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE Savior of the Nations, Come *J. S. Bach*

Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. (It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4 (NRSV)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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