

Lord's Day Worship

December 5, 2021

2nd Sunday in Advent

*(Asterisk) indicates *Please stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

* Call to Worship

* Opening Hymn *"Joy to the World"*

RENEWAL

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

King of love and mercy, how different would our lives be if we remembered that you are good and that you love to give good gifts to your children? In our weakness, we forget your goodness. When we feel guilty for our sin, we hide from you, thinking that you will judge us for our crimes. We forget that Christ paid the penalty for our sins – past, present, and future. Father, forgive us for our betrayal. Thank you for your patience and unshakable love, given to us through Jesus your Son, our Savior. (silent prayer)

* Song *"Imagine"*

Lighting of the Advent Candles

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.

COMMITMENT

Offering

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-6

* Hymn *"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"*

New Testament Reading Luke 1:26-38

Sermon *"The Lord Is with You"*

Prayer

* Affirmation of Faith - Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1 (1563)

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

* Song *"Meekness and Majesty"*

The Lord's Supper

* Closing Song *"Sing We the Song of Emmanuel"*

* Benediction

* Dismissal

Church, where are you going?

We go forth to serve God's world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to God!

A Disruptive Peace

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way . . . – Matthew 1:18 (ESV)

For many of us the best moment of Christmas is the peaceful singing of *Silent Night* on Christmas Eve. But Matthew makes clear the entrance of Jesus into the world was anything but peaceful. Joseph had to accept the uncomfortable fact that the child in Mary's womb was not his. Only an angel speaking in a dream kept him from divorce. Wise men from the East were moved to embark on a long and dangerous journey to worship him. When Jesus was a toddler, a threatened King Herod massacred an entire population of boys in an attempt to eradicate the rival king. Matthew's Gospel especially highlights that the birth of Jesus was met with the violent resistance of a proud world. As an adult, Jesus summed it up this way: *Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.* (Matthew 10:34)

This same Jesus confronts us today. He is not a baby we can cuddle at Christmas time, and then walk away to resume our self-directed lives. The Risen Lord whose birth we celebrate confronts us with terms. We must decide. Either we bow in submission and worship him like the wise men, or like Herod we are set against him as deadly enemies.

There is no neutral place to hide. Abraham Kuyper, the great Dutch theologian and statesman said, "There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!" By God's grace, we can choose, like Joseph and the wise men, to humble ourselves and be servants of the Christ child. We cannot escape turmoil and challenge in this world, but we are given an enduring promise: *He will save his people from their sins.* (Matthew 1:21)



CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“...so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (b) NRSV

December 5, 2021 | Pastor Phil Moran
2nd Sunday in Advent
“The Lord is With You”
Luke 1:26-38

Pastor - Phil Moran | Music Director - Jeff Davis

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