



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

"To repent is to come to your senses... True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," than to the future and saying, "Wow!" ~ Frederick Buechner

PRELUDE

"This is Christmas" Alfred Burt Carol, arr. Joyce Merman

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

****HYMN No. 88, St. 1, 2, 7**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
Who orderest all things mightily:
To us the path of knowledge show;
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Lord, it is hard to hold on to a sense of peace. The hectic pace of the holiday season keeps us moving and provides details to worry about. Slow us down and help us be reflective throughout the Advent season. The daily news makes it clear that both around the corner of our neighborhoods and around the world peace between people is too often missing. Inspire us to try once again to make the commitment to walk in the way of peace, to promote personal and societal actions that bring peace. Help us practice peace beyond this Advent season. Strengthen us to love with the gentle power required by justice and released by grace. Bring us again to your light, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the hope that God offers to you today.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest.

****HYMN No. 85, St. 2**

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

TIF IN VELDELE

Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
Let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
Gently lead them homeward.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1 - 11

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Mark A. Miller

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1 - 6

SERMON

“Come Home to Peace”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Birthday of a King”

William Howard Neidlinger

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Advent promise was that a child would be born and called Emmanuel.

That promise would be fulfilled in Bethlehem.

That promise is fulfilled again in Spirit when we come to this table.

We come home to the joyful feast of the Messiah.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of Advent be with you!

And also with you!

Lift your hearts to God.

We lift them to the One who comes with peace. Join in glad songs of thanksgiving.

Our voices resound in glad praises to our God.

(Sung to the tune: *Regent Square*)

Thank the Lord, His praises voicing

For His promised faithfulness.

All who seek the Lord, rejoicing,

Tell His love, His name confess.

For He leads us, with thanksgiving,

In the paths of righteousness.

At Your Word, Lord, let Your servant

Go in peace for with my eyes

I have seen Your bright salvation,

Israel’s light, begin to rise

As the Glory of the nations,

Leading onto Paradise.

CONSECRATION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour out your Spirit upon these Advent pilgrims gathered in this place, and on the gifts of the Table. The days are surely coming when the Bread which was broken becomes the healing of our world. Surely, the days are coming when the grace which fills the Cup is poured out for all who long for justice and righteousness. Help us invite all to come home to this peace that is alive in Jesus Christ. Amen.

****HYMN No. 123, St. 1 - 3, 5**

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Caroling, Caroling”

Alfred Burt Carol, arr. Joyce Merman

****Those who are able may stand.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram, Rev. Barbara Piercy
Susan Jones & Noel Piercy
Micki Hardenberg, Cantor & Soloist
Westminster Choir
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineer



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-228-0310; www.firstprescaldwell.org