

Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:30 am

Second Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“So...is it actually possible amidst our familiarity with the Christmas story to again hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ Son of God as Good and as News and as that which only just Began with the birth of Jesus and is yet to end?”

Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber

PRELUDE

“Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella”

arr. Al Fedak

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT

“Prepare the Way”

PREPARE THE WAY

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor Nominating Committee

Tom Asche, Rich Hauser, Kaitlyn Heun, Donna McGinley

*HYMN NO. 88 verses 1 and 3

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord!
Call on God's name.

As we call, Jesus answers with grace and forgiveness. Amen

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Alleluia”

arr. E. Wright, J Henry

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN'S PRAYER RESPONSE

We are Marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God!

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay
4. Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Steve and Becky Serico
Joel and Danielle DeRuyter

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

INVITATION TO GIVING

1. "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."
2. For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.
3. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“Angel's We Have Heard on High”*

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

POSTLUDE *“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

Paul Manz

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Dapper Dans of Harmony
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer
Matthew Califf & Michael Sperrazza, AV Team

✠ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✠ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org

Upcoming Events

12/17—Children's Christmas Musical at the 10:00 Sanctuary Service
12/17—Christmas Brunch following 10:00 Service
12/22—Family Christmas Caroling at the Live Nativity—Children to Adult—All are Welcome!
5:30-7:00 Church Lawn. Contact Valerie to sign up at Valerie@firstprescaldwell.org
12/22—Contemporary Christmas Service in the chapel @ 7pm
12/24—Christmas Eve Services 10:00am—8:00pm—10:00pm all in the Sanctuary.
12/31—New Year's Eve Service 10:00am in the Sanctuary



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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