

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 40: 1-11)

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

All: We hear and respond.

We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.
Comfort, comfort O my people says our God of love.

**All: The grass withers and the flower fades;
But the word of our God will stand forever!**

SONG *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Voice One: I dream of family home for the holidays.

Voice Two: I dream of good books and homemade meals.

One: I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.

Two: These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.

One: I dream of conversations across party lines.

Two: I dream of more bridges and less walls.

One: I dream of more laughter and less fear.
Two: **I dream of more listening and less tears.**

One: But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.
Two: **Today we light the candle of peace.**

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- The candle of Peace is lit. -

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

**Where there seems to be no way
to end the injustices of our time,
we pray that you would teach us, O Christ,
to prepare the way;**

**Where we can see no way
to provide for the well-being of all people,
we pray that you would show us, O Christ,
how to prepare the way;**

**In a world where we are tempted
to see our challenges as dead-ends,
we pray for a new vision, a new heart
and a new commitment
to prepare the way for your reign.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

May God forgive you.
May God's guiding hand surround you.
May you know comfort, and may you know peace.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean

countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MESSAGE

Going to the River

Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

SONG

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Verses 1, 5 & 6

***Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!***

***O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!***

***Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Good and gracious God,

We ask today that you gather us into your presence. Draw us from our living rooms, our offices, from wherever your people find themselves, draw us in, knit our hearts together, that we might find refuge in your presence.

Lord, so much of our world feels unfamiliar. You know that for many of us, our plans for Christmas seem diminished. We will set our tables for fewer loved ones. Out of caution we will close our doors to friends and family. Our homes, unusually quiet, will not sound with lively chatter and glad tidings.

And, God, you know the state of our holiday plans is just the beginning. Your people have faced layoffs, diagnoses, and depression we didn't expect. We've witnessed widespread injustice. We've woken every day for months to an ongoing pandemic. We've seen our democracy grow fragile.

Only a year ago, this time of year was seen as the most joyous. You know how easy it is for us to be discouraged, especially now. And so, Lord, in this Advent time, where we wait for your Son's birth into the world, we wonder: what are we waiting for?

We wait for a vaccine, and also for the day when families can gather, and churches can meet in their sanctuaries.

We wait for an America that sets policies to aid those who have lost jobs, those in danger of losing their homes, and those crippled by medical bills.

So as we wait, prepare our hearts to be generous and just. We pray this in the name of the One for whom we wait, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Take out the bread and the cup from your communion bag or from your home for communion.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall not thirst."

With Christians around the world and throughout the centuries, we gather around these symbols of bread and wine—simple elements that speak of nourishment and transformation.

Prayer

Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need. We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out God's call for justice and peace, kindness and compassion. We thank you for the promise of new life that Jesus revealed in his life, death and resurrection. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; as we pray as Jesus taught us, saying:

**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.**

Words over the bread and cup

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying,
“This is my body, given to you. Take and eat, remembering me.”

In the same way he took the cup and gave thanks, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant with God for the forgiveness of sins. Take and drink in remembrance of me. “

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing Communion

Take the bread and the cup, remembering your St. Giles community and Christians around the world.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.

May we too prepare the way for the Christ and may our lives reveal your steadfast love and your passion for justice for our world. Amen.

CLOSING SONG #129 *Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

***Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.***

***Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.***

*To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.*

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his face towards you
And give you peace. Amen

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Mona Dowell and Eddie Adams for providing the music and technical support for our worship podcast.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

James Brown, who has a fractured radial head on his right elbow.

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay
Charolette Brown
Dan Grassi
Inez Ruchte
Donna Nichols

Rachel Williams
Libby Morton
Aleta Wheeler
Jeane Nagel
Andrew Scharfe

Sandra Richbourg
Dick Grassi
Barbara Settlemyre
Joe Moody
Dave Smith

We continue to pray for these family and friends of Saint Giles members:

Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet
Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Ev
Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, sister Eloise Rohner,
& niece Eloise Lindsay
Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces Colleen, & Sourour Dehnadi, brother Ken, & friend
Paul Hutter & family
Dave & Rita Hart's friend Terry, and neighbors Sarah and Wayne
Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
Scott Vollmer's mother, Lois
Nathan Whittle's aunt Pauline and her son
Carol Pope's sister, Kathy; brother, David; sister-in-law, Kacy

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.