

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WELCOME

Welcome to worship at St. Giles Presbyterian. We are separate physically but connected in space and time. We are so glad you are with us to praise God and renew your faith and hope today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please sing with us:

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

One: The power of dreams lies in waking up
For when we close our eyes,

All: We can see a better world

One: When we close our eyes,

All: We can dream a better dream

One: But when we open our eyes

All: We begin the work of faith

One: The power of worship is the same.
When we enter this space

All: We can see a better world

One: When we enter this space

All: We dream a better dream

One: But when we leave this space,

All: We begin the work of faith

One: So come in. Dream your dream

All: Find hope here.

One: For in an hour

All: We will begin the work of faith.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

One: What are these candles for?

All: This is an Advent candle ring. It shows the circle of God's dream for us. There are five candles. We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas.

One: We dream of sunflower fields and river paths.
**All: We dream of the days when we could be part of a crowd.
We dream of empty beds in jail cells.**
One: We dream of a world that will let kids be kids.
All: We dream of full tables instead of empty bellies.
One: We dream of schools with enough money to teach.
All: We dream of parents with enough money to feed.
One: We dream to keep awake,
because if we don't dream of better days,
All: then we might forget that this is not what God imagined.
One: So today we light the candle of hope, for hope is the very thing that keeps
dreams afloat.

- The candle of Hope is lit. -

SONG *Wait For the Lord*

Refrain:
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope for new dreams;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by the worries and disappointments of this season.
Forgive us, God.

Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them to Bethlehem
and find the good news of a child born for us.
Now, in the quiet of our hearts,
we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God
loves you at this very moment. Wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a
call to go out into the world to begin again. Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE*

Isaiah 64:1–9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered^{ed} us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

MESSAGE

Holy Longing

Rev. Rebecca Kuiken

SONG # 88

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

verses 1, 4, 6, & 7

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

*O come, thou Root of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
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.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, as the year turns we set our sights towards Christmas and the child who changed the world. We come like shepherds, expectant and yearning. We come like the magi, curious and searching to find your presence. We come hearing angel songs and reminders of the gift of love. Help to be ready to receive this gift because our hearts are open, and our spirits are receptive to your leading.

Glorious God make our world ready for your rule. May your healing presence and comfort surround those who are ill or recovering or in grief. Bring hope and opportunities to those who are unemployed. Gather up those who are lonely and discouraged and strengthen their spirits. We pray for the nations of Syria, Venezuela, and other countries permeated with chaos and unrest. Go before us, O God, drawing us into the future you have prepared for us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together 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.**

CLOSING SONG # 347 *Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the shadows clear away.*

*At his feet the six-winged seraph,
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord most high!”*

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, Dave Smith, 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:

Jodi Miranda, friend of Emmie Brown, and Jodi's children Katie and Karson, following the death of Jorge Miranda, husband of Jodi and father to Katie and Karson

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay	Rachel Williams	Sandra Richbourg
Charolette Brown	Libby Morton	Dick Grassi
Dan Grassi	Aleta Wheeler	Jack Van Stavern
Inez Ruchte	Jeane Nagel	Joe Moody
Donna Nichols	Andrew Scharfe	Dave Smith
Barbara Settlemyre	Rabbi Lucy Dinner	

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.