



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON

To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

1st Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022 10:00 AM

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE “Lord Remind Me”

Pastor Robbie Carnes

WELCOME

INTROIT “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Dr. Ray Shuster

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ’s world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God’s strength and hope.

One: We come from a slumbering world.

Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and watch for the coming of Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

What is God like?

God is like a fort, strong and secure with walls that are mighty and safe. Inside, there are hidden places to hold you when you’re scared or need a quiet place to rest. The God who makes us feel safe is the God who gives us hope. Today we light the first Advent candle: the candle of hope.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

We trust the Lord’s goodness. We rely on God’s mercy. We find shelter in God’s steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,

We walk in the Lord’s way. We follow God’s example of love. We keep our covenant promises.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Remember your love. Remember each one of us. Remember your people everywhere. Forgive us our sins.

In this Advent season of waiting, Lord, we wait for your salvation. We wait for your leading. We wait for your coming. Amen.

HYMN "Fullness of Grace" (see insert)

Today's opening hymn, "Fullness of Grace", is a new hymn (to us!) by Stuart Townend and Keith and Kristyn Getty. This beautiful hymn touches on the themes of Christmas and the birth of Jesus as well as grace. The composing of this piece came together through the following Bible passages: John 1:14, 16-17, Colossians 1:19, Colossians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Isaiah 53:10, Isaiah 53:3-5, John 1:14, Luke 1:34, Luke 2:7, Matthew 1:19, Peter (1) 1:8, Philippians 2:7, and Romans 5:19.

FULLNESS OF GRACE

"Fullness of grace in man's human frailty,
 This is the wonder of Jesus.
 Laying aside His power and glory,
 Humbly He entered our world.
 Choose the path of meanest worth:
 Scandal of a virgin birth.
 Born in a stable, cold and rejected:
 Here lies the hope of the world.

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father
 Shown in the face of Jesus.
 Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,
 Walking the Calvary road.
 Christ the holy Innocent
 Took our sin and punishment.

Fullness of God, despised and rejected: Crushed for the sins of the world.

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,
 Promise of God in Jesus.
 Through His obedience we are forgiven,
 Opening the floodgates of heaven.
 All our hopes and dreams we bring
 Gladly as an offering.
 Fullness of life and joy unspeakable:
 God's gift in love to the world..

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we are children, our understanding of God is both expansive and personal. God is as close as any friend, yet there's nothing our God cannot do. Grace and peace to you from our God.

Somewhere along the way our view of God often gets smaller and controlled. Our imaginations get stunted, and God is suddenly distant and abstract, an idea rather than a friend.

In this Advent season, as we prepare for the most surprising of actions God has taken— becoming human as a helpless infant— we offer this prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of mystery and wonder, forgive us for thinking we can contain you and control you. We confess that we forget who you are— a God of delightful surprise and deep belly laughs. Forgive us for assuming you are distant, and for forgetting you know what it's like to be in our skin. You are bigger than what we can imagine, but you know every trial and temptation we face. Revive our imaginations, restore our childlike faith, and renew us with wonder and joy, all for your name's sake. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

In Jesus, God came into our world and is coming again. In Jesus, all things will be made new. In Jesus, we are forgiven and can be at peace. **Thanks be to God!**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life!
 Help us now to hear and obey what you say to us today.
 Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:1-5

1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come
 the mountain of the Lord's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains
 and shall be raised above the hills;
 all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the Lord!

ANTHEM "I Wonder As I Wander"

Dr. Ray Shuster

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:46-54

46 And Mary said,
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
 Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name;
50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
 and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things
 and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,

SERMON The Christmas You Long For

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What would be your ideal celebration of Christmas?

How does that compare with God’s ideal?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
 where moth and rust consume
 and where thieves break in and steal;
 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
 where neither moth nor rust consumes
 and where thieves do not break in and steal.
 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Friends, Let us pray...

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

(Financial Offerings can also be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope. And we give in hope. Hope for your coming

reign; Hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, And use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

OFFERTORY “Gathered in His Name”

Morris Fulcher

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To God we pray, “Your kingdom come!”

Come bring your purpose near
to make the force of evil fade,
your goodness to appear
as righteousness, a rolling stream
to quench a thirsty land,
the waiting season spent at last:
your kingdom close at hand!

To God we pray, “Your kingdom come!”

Come as a marriage feast
in which the first and honored guests
shall be the last and least;
come lift the poorest of the poor
up to your finest ranks,
the hungry fed, the naked clothed,
the downcast filled with thanks!

To God we pray, “Your kingdom come!”

Come with your gift of growth;
you scatter seed upon the ground,
mix leaven in the loaf!

What’s sown in secret, soon reveal
to claim your harvest’s goal,
till we attain your lasting aim:
the leavening of the whole!

To God we pray, “Your kingdom come!”

Come grant your unity.
You seek and tend the wayward ones
to form community,
so that the lost may enter in
your good and holy place,
and find their joy is centered in
a heavenly embrace!

To God, we pray, “Your kingdom come!”

Come claim creation wide;
then shall the power of evil break,
and sin no more divide.

Your love shall launch a lasting reign

as earth's old ills are healed;
 by mercy, justice, peace anew,
 in perfect joy revealed! Amen.

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.

HYMN BH #9, PH #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

CHARGE AND BLESSING —Romans 15:12-13, NRSV

Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
 the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

POSTLUDE "Hyfrydol Happiness"

Rebekah Ratza

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!