



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Today, we celebrate the second of four Sundays in Advent: a hope-filled season of anticipation and preparation. Our hope for a peaceful world is embedded in God's past faithfulness and in God's participation in the present. During Advent, we celebrate God's presence and God's promise in Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

PRELUDES

Communion in E Minor *Alexandre Guilmant*
Watchman, Tell Us of the Night *Martha Sobaje*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The Fagerholm Family



CHORAL RESPONSE #314

Christ, Be Our Light *Christ, Be Our Light*
(verse 2)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

(refrain)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

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CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 92)

L: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

P: To sing praises to your name, O Most High.

L: To declare your steadfast love in the morning, your faithfulness by night.

P: For you, O Lord, have made me glad; at the works of your hands, I sing for joy.

All: Let us worship the Lord!

***WELCOMING SONG #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion *Bereden Väg för Herran*
(verse 1)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

(verse 2)

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

(verse 3)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

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CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 64:9)

L: We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, lover of shalom, we hear the promise that you are coming to be the Prince of Peace for all peoples. We confess that we ignore your promises, instead living fearfully and selfishly. We accept lies as truth, we exploit our neighbors rather than loving them, we abuse the good earth you created, and we refuse your signs of justice and reconciliation. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your coming and to seek that which will bring enduring peace.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Isaiah 40:4-5)

L: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

Waiting (Cason)

(verse 1)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see signs of your promises fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 85:8-13

⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. ⁹ Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. ¹² The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christmas Time
Soloist: Sue Doughman

Smith & Carlson

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING – Ezekiel 37:1-14 (Common English Bible)

The LORD's power overcame me, and while I was in the LORD's spirit, he led me out and set me down in the middle of a certain valley. It was full of bones. ² He led me through them all around, and I saw that there were a great many of them on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³ He asked me, "Human one, can these bones live again?" I said, "LORD God, only you know."

⁴ He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, Dry bones, hear the LORD's word! ⁵ The LORD God proclaims to these bones: I am about to put breath in you, and you will live again. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, place flesh on you, and cover you with skin. When I put breath in you, and you come to life, you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷ I prophesied just as I was commanded. There was a great noise as I was prophesying, then a great quaking, and the bones came together, bone by bone. ⁸ When I looked, suddenly there were sinews on them. The flesh appeared, and then they were covered over with skin. But there was still no breath in them.

⁹ He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, human one! Say to the breath, The LORD God proclaims: Come from the four winds, breath! Breathe into these dead bodies and let them live." ¹⁰ I prophesied just as he commanded me. When the breath entered them, they came to life and stood on their feet, an extraordinarily large company.

¹¹ He said to me, "Human one, these bones are the entire house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope has perished. We are completely finished.' ¹² So now, prophesy and say to them, The LORD God proclaims: I'm opening your graves! I will raise you up from your graves, my people, and I will bring you to Israel's fertile land. ¹³ You will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, my people. ¹⁴ I will put my breath in you, and you will live. I will plant you on your fertile land, and you will know that I am the LORD. I've spoken, and I will do it. This is what the LORD says."

SERMON

"A Message of Advent Peace"

Rev. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Luke 1:46-55, *The Canticle of Mary*)
Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has

pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Paul Manz

***DOXOLOGY #609**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING / WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of peace, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice and righteousness of your new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming in glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #498**

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken *Beach Spring*

(verse 1)

Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore. Jesus, Bread of Life from heaven, was their food forevermore. By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

(verse 2)

Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light. By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 3)

Loaves are broken, words were spoken, as in faith we gather here. Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!" By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured, Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

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***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *The First Noel* *Traditional*

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* *Carson P. Cooman*

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Health and Safety Protocols

With the return to in-person worship services, we ask you to follow these guidelines:

- Windows may be open or fans turned on to provide appropriate air circulation.
- Face coverings are recommended when inside the church building.
 - Socially distance as able in the pews and sanctuary.
 - If you are not feeling well today, please stay home.
- At this time, we will not be passing the peace, the offering plate, or holding hands for the benediction at the close of the service.
- After the worship service has concluded, we ask that you move outside for any extended conversations.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Any changes to these protocols will be shared in advance of Sunday gatherings.

A Simple Christmas

A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS will be presented on Sunday, December 12th during the worship service by the Valley Adult Choir and Parker and Payton Timmons. We are all blessed to, once again, welcome the birth of our Savior and share in the simple message that he brought:

LOVE



Please consider attending Sunday, December 12, and experiencing through music the simplest of gifts.....the baby Jesus.



Christmas Alternative Gift Giving

Valley is participating in Alternative Gifts, again, this Christmas season. We have three options: The Dougbe School, Heifer, and Presbyterian Giving. Catalogs are available for you to take home and order. They are on the table in the Narthex and, also, outside of Fellowship Hall. Please consider giving a gift that will truly help people in need. Thank you, The Mission Commission

Annual Christmas Angel Tree Project



Our Angel gifts this year will consist of collecting gift cards and pajamas for teens from Chagrin Falls Park Community Center (CFPCC). Please purchase \$25 gift cards from Walmart or Target, or buy pajamas for teens. Most teens wear adult sizes. The CFPCC is not collecting toys this year. Please bring the gift cards or pajamas to the church by December 12. There is a box in the hall across from Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continuing generosity to this program. The Mission Commission

Sarah Circle



Sarah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 14, from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., in the Church library. We will be studying Lesson 3, "Rehab", in "What *My Grandmothers Taught Me*". All Valley women are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion.

Community Meal

This month, we will, again, be preparing dinners to be available for pick-up or delivery. These meals are our gift to the community: to anyone who is in need of the food or the love that goes into making it.

The menu for the December 14 meal is: glazed ham, cheesy potatoes, vegetables, cornbread muffin, and Christmas cookies.

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9-11 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m., and distributing / delivering from 4-6 p.m. In addition, if you would like to bake Christmas cookies at home, they can be delivered by 10 a.m. on December 14th.

Sign up on the church website for the meal or to volunteer.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items for December to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Garlic powder, onion powder, pepper, Jiffy corn bread mix, vegetable oil, grits, oatmeal, kid friendly cereals (no plain Cheerios please).

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations.

Poinsettia Orders



Today is the last Sunday to turn in poinsettia order forms, or forms can be mailed or delivered to the church to arrive no later than this **Wednesday, December 8**. Any questions, see Marilyn Rodenhausen.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The store will be closed through January, 2022, reopening in February.

Liturgist / Greeters

Every Sunday, we need a smiling face to welcome our in-person worshipers ("Greeter"), and someone to help lead the worship service ("Liturgist"). You can sign up on the lists posted in the Narthex or via the SignUpGenius link on the church's website.

Worship Commission

We are looking for some new members on our Worship Commission! After many years of good and faithful service, Jeanne Delaney is leaving the Commission. Jeanne has been responsible for changing the "antependium" in the Sanctuary, and we are searching for her replacement! (Antependium is the fancy word for the cloths that hang on the pulpit and communion table!) Email Beth Krause at bethkrause00@gmail.com, if you are interested in joining the Commission.

Offering Envelopes for 2022

For those that receive offering envelopes, please retain the current box you have for 2022. Please look for replacement envelopes in the Narthex. A pack of 30 envelopes is labeled with your name. If at any time you are in need of more, please contact the office. If you do not receive envelopes and would like to, please contact the office.

Prayer Requests

An updated prayer requests list is available on the table in the Narthex and on the church website.

VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
www.valleypresbychurch.org
VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

17560 Chillicothe Road
Chagrin Falls, OH 44023
Phone: (440) 543-1071
Email: valleypc@netlink.net

Rev. John Wahl, Pastor
Cell Phone: (216) 287-2405
Email: revjohnwahl@netlink.net

Heart of Valley Preschool
Heidi Cregar, Director
Phone: (440) 708-2572
Email: hovcp@netlink.net

Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan

Organist: John Kautzman

Liturgist: Marilyn Rodenhausen