

November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDES

Advent Pastoral James Southbridge
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Robert W. Thygerson

WELCOME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Nancy & Don Sullivan

One: Advent is a time to hear again of God's reconciling love.

All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us hear.

One: Advent is a time to hear again of God's unmerited grace.

All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us hear.

One: Advent is a time to hear again that our hope rests in God's redeeming work.

All: Give us ears, O Lord, and help us hear.



CHORAL RESPONSE

God is Near

Joel Raney

Listen to the angels, hear the message they bring; telling the news of a coming King; filling the world with hope and good cheer. Jesus, Emmanuel, God is near.

Text and Music by Joel Raney / ©2010 Hope Publishing Company / Reprinted by permission

***GATHERING 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.

Text adapted by Charles P. Price / ©1982 Hope Publishing Company / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isaiah 12:2)

One: "Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we cry to you from a fractured world where violence and wrongdoing abound, where destruction and division surround us. Help us to know that you are near. Help us to trust that you listen to us. Help us to hear your voice through it all. Holy One, renew our vision, for our sight grows weary as we move from crisis to crisis. Help us to keep watch for the signs of your coming. Though the world around us may tremble, help us to find strength in you.

(Moment of Silent Reflection)

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

One: “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.”

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*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.***

Text by Claire Cloninger / ©1986 Word Music, LLC / CCL #11043756

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (from Matthew 11:4-5)

One: “The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing.” The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

WORD

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

I Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Infant Holy / El Shaddai

Rouse

*Please stand as you are able.

THE SECOND LESSON *Habakkuk 1:1-7, 2:1-4, 3:17-19*

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. **2** O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? **3** Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. **4** So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted. **5** Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. **6** For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own. **7** Dread and fearsome are they; their justice and dignity proceed from themselves.

2 I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. **2** Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. **3** For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. **4** Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

3 ¹⁷Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer and makes me tread upon the heights. To the leader: with stringed instruments.

THE MESSAGE

“How Long, O Lord?”

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

WITNESS

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available in the narthex for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

A Tranquil Moment

Franklin Ritter

***DOXOLOGY #314**

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

(verse 5)

Christ, Be Our Light

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Text by Bernadette Farrell / ©1993 Bernadette Farrell / Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722956

*Please stand as you are able.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OFFERING**

***SENDING SONG #450**

Be Thou My Vision
(verse 1)

Slane

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

(verse 2)

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

(verse 3)

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

(verse 4)

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

John Bell

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on Wacht Auf

Martha Sobaje

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers

The flowers are dedicated by Ruth & Alan Gurd in memory of loved family members.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items in November to help stock the shelves at the Chagrin Falls Park Community Center in preparation for Thanksgiving:



Cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes, canned turkey gravy, Stove Top stuffing mix, cooking oil, mayo, butter, celery, white potatoes, onions, eggs, sweet relish, brownie mix, whole turkey.

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

Wise Men Still Seek Him Musical Service



Sunday, December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m.

At

Valley Presbyterian Church

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, December 16 (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, December 17 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Advent Devotion Booklets

Printed copies of “O Come Dawning Light” – a series of daily Advent devotions, beginning on Monday, November 21 and written by our friend Rev. Susi Kowalics – are available in the Narthex. If you would prefer to receive them electronically, you can sign up at: <https://www.facebook.com/AdventReflections>.

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.
- When inside the church building, face coverings are optional based on personal comfort level.
 - 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 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.

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. Dr. 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
Liturgist: Karen Winn

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Bernice Denham