



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Where People and Community Matter”

A Matthew 25 Congregation



Sunday, November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Eleven o’ clock

Prelude *“Metamorphosis 1 and 2”* **Maria Constantine**

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome

Introit *“While We are Waiting, Come”* **Cason**

*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us go into the house of the Lord!

People: Let us meet God with joy!

Leader: God builds us up like a great city.

People: May peace be within our walls.

Leader: Let us seek the goodness of God;

People: let us go into the house of the Lord! Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

God of glory, we know that you are coming at an unexpected hour. Come to us now, in spirit and truth. Take us up into your presence, and make us ready for your reign of peace through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn** *“Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night”* **#20**

Lighting of the Advent Candle **The Proano Family**

One: Faith, hope and love,

People: By these three gifts we live,

One: Given by God, received in the Spirit, learned from Christ.

People: Together with sisters and brothers throughout the world, whose faith, hope and love carry them through good times and bad, we gather at Advent in a festival of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of God in Jesus Christ, until he comes again.

One: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

People: Why do we light the first candle?

One: The first candle is called the prophecy candle. This candle reminds us of the promises of God in the Old Testament that foretold the coming of Jesus Christ. The first candle also represents hope – hope in the coming light of Emmanuel, God with us.

(The first candle is lit at this time)

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy, to give you thanks and praise O Lord our God.... *(the leader continues)*.... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord *(the leader continues)* With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. According to his commandment:

People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Leader: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us *(the leader continues)* Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

The 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn** *“Prepare the Way”* **#13**

*Blessing

***Choral Response** *“May the Peace of God Go With You”*

3.

One: We light the first candle of Advent, the candle of prophecy and hope. We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming. In this season we prepare and wait for the coming of our Lord. We have hope in His coming just as the Israelites had so long ago. We take hope in the words of the prophet Isaiah: "God did awesome things that we did not expect; God came down, and the mountains trembled before Him." God continues to do awesome things. Let us prepare as we wait for the coming of the Lord.

One: Let us pray:

People: **Gracious God, let all who are discouraged take heart in this light. It is both in suffering and in celebration that we hope. Let us not close ourselves to hope when it seems naïve or is too painful. And let us refuse to call any place or time or person hopeless. For this is the light of Emmanuel, the candle of hope. Amen.**

Hymn **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** v. 1
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.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O God, we are steeped in a world of violence. War is one of the first things we learn, and we let it work its way into our lives. Your promises of peace sound like impossible dreams, and we become accustomed to cruelty. Forgive us. Wrest our weapons from our hands, and show us how beautiful life can be when you forge them into instruments of peace. Amen.

(Please spend some time in silent confession.)

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri **"Glory Be To The Father"** #579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***The Peace**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayers of the People

4.

Anthem **"Morceau de Concert"** Pennequin
Maria Constantine, Piano * Noah Kilgus, Trumpet

Children's Sermon Rev. Philip A. Beck

*Hymn **"O Lord, How Shall I Meet"** #11

Scriptures

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5 p. 773
New Testament Lesson Romans 13:11-14 p. 195
Gospel Lesson Matthew 24:36-44 p. 33

Sermon **"Awake and Light"** Rev. Philip A. Beck

*Apostles Creed (Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Announcements

Dedication of Tithes and Gifts to the Lord

Offertory **"Rejoice! The Lord Cometh"** Saxton

*Doxology **"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"** #592

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

*Hymn **"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"** #5

The Eucharist

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***Sending**

Leader: Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“This Train is Bound for Glory”

Dean Hoover, Piano

**Please stand if you are able to do so comfortably.*

Please welcome our musical guests, Maria Constantine and Noah Kilgus.

Maria is pursuing a degree in music education with a focus in piano at the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University. In the future, Maria plans to pursue a graduate degree in piano pedagogy, work as an elementary general music teacher, band director, or choir director, and start her own private piano studio. She has been teaching private piano lessons since 2018 and performs as a classical piano and voice soloist, as well as a vocal ensemble member.

Noah is a senior Music Education student Duquesne University, and an active musician and educator in the Pittsburgh area. He is the director of his own summer brass camp, assistant director for the Plum High School Marching Band, and an instructor with the River City Brass School of Brass.

*The chancel flowers today are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Alton & Mary Rea, Anthony & Rose Bak,
Curtis Rae, and Rosanne Vogel, with love from the Rea Family.*

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