



Hope



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Prepare Ye The Way of The Lord

George Blake

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

(based on Jeremiah 33:14-16)

We gather in the vision of prophet Jeremiah, who heard God say, “The time is coming when I will fulfill the promise that I made to my people. At that time I will choose a leader who will do what is right and just throughout the land. People will be rescued and will live in the safety of a place called ‘The Lord is Our Salvation.’” We today are heirs to that promise, those who look for what is right and just throughout the land, those who seek salvation, glimpsed anew in the birth of a child.

* Opening Prayer & Advent Lighting

(based on Psalm 51:1-12 &
Isaiah 9:1-4, 6-7)

One: O God, we enter this advent season, ready to watch for a fresh coming of right and just love in Jesus.

All: If we are jaded by indifference, let us watch in hope.

One: If we are twisted in divisive thought, let us watch in peace.

All: If we are consumed by busy desire, let us watch in simplicity.

One: If we are emptied in loneliness, let us watch in togetherness.

We light the candle of Hope, reminding us that God restores... that God creates good out of the most difficult of our challenges, that when life is hard or sad or discouraging, God is with us. Always... in all ways... with us.

All: In this season of advent, we wait with hope.

Carol

While we are waiting, come
(lighting of 1st advent candle representing hope)

1032

1. While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
2. Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
3. With pow'r and glory, come; with pow'r and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

While We Are Waiting, Come by Claire Cloninger, Don Cason
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CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with Our Children

Congregational Prayer

(adapted from *Lost in Wonder, Love, & Praise* (Killingier))

O God, though your essence is beyond finding out, we believe you have revealed yourself in the child of Bethlehem. We come to you in praise and adoration for the gift of Jesus to the world. We are deeply aware of the darkness around us -- of hate and strife and envy and deceit and greed and selfish ambition. Amid pandemics, a damaged earth, divisions, struggles for power, isms of all sorts, even discouragement, we are grateful for the season of advent when we can glimpse the hope of reconciliation and wholeness. Tune our hearts to sing new songs in this season, songs that can make us aware you are among us. Let those songs be heard in the lives of our families and friends, in the lives of our enemies and all those around us. May our faces be your face, in the spirit of one born in a stable. Amen.

* Song

O come, O come, Immanuel (vs. 1, 3, 6)

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1. O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,

that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.

Bid envy, strife, and quarrels to cease.

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Thoughts on Giving

(based I Thessalonians 3:9-13)

It is appropriate to give thanks to God for the joy we share with each other, and to pray that our love for one another will grow. Our gifts are to be signs of this thanks and growing love, as we hail One who helps us set others free, bring them justice, aid the poor, and strengthen the weak. May our gifts tell the story of the joy given in Jesus.

LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Mark Hayes

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-5, 11, 28-31; 50:6; 52:13-14; 53:5-6;

II Corinthians 4:6 (GNB)

“Comfort my people,” says our God. “Comfort them! Encourage the people of Jerusalem. Tell them they have suffered long enough and their sins are now forgiven. A voice cries out, “Prepare in the

wilderness a road for the Lord! Clear the way in the desert for our God! Fill every valley; level every mountain. The hills will become a plain, and the rough country will be made smooth. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all the people will see it.”

The Sovereign Lord will take care of his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs together and carry them in his arms; he will gently lead their mothers.

Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, he created all the world and strengthens those who are weak and tired. Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.

I bared my back to those who beat me. I did not stop them when they insulted me, when they pulled out the hairs of my beard and spit in my face. The Lord says, “My servant will succeed in his task; he will be highly honored. Many people were shocked when they saw him; he was so disfigured that he hardly looked human. Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each going his or her own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment we all deserved.

The God who said, “Out of darkness light shall shine!” is the same God who made divine light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of glory shining in the face of Christ.

Sermon

“The Human Face of God”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Closing Song

To us a Child of hope is born

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I. To us a Child of hope is born,
to us a Son is giv'n.
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,

him all the hosts of heav'n,
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
him all the hosts of heav'n.

2. His name shall be the Prince of peace,
forever more adored,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the great and mighty Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counselor,
the great and mighty Lord.
3. His pow'r, increasing, still shall spread,
his reign no end shall know.
Justice will guard his throne above,
and peace abound below,
justice will guard his throne above,
and peace abound below

*** Benediction**

(based on Numbers 6:24-26)

O God, bless us and keep us. Make your face shine upon us. Be gracious and give us peace. Just as Jesus was your human face, may we also be your face in this world, our lives reflecting hope, peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Postlude Duet

The Shepherd's Song

Iris Ackenhusen

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Guest Speaker	David Brunk
Worship Leader.....	Thoko Lipato
Special Music.....	Bob Phillips
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Pianist	Bob Phillips
Media & Technology Dir.....	Kevin Beers