

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Isaiah 40)*

One: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

All: "Make straight a highway for our God."

One: With expectancy we come to listen, to give, to invest ourselves in this time of worship.

All: In anticipation of God's coming to us, let us come to worship the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN** "Prepare the Way, O Zion" GtG 106

One: Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!

**All: Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.**

One: Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

**All: O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

One: He brings God's rule, O Zion;

All: he comes from heaven above.

One: His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.

**All: Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.**

One: Fling wide your gates, O Zion;

**All: your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.**

One: All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.

**All: O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

As we seek to prepare for you, hear our confession, O Lord. We sing of adoring you; but our lives focus on most everything else instead, from lists, to presents, to the hustle and bustle of life. We sing of justice and truth and love; but our choices support injustice, our words speak deceptively, and our lives are anything but loving when others get in our way. Forgive us, gracious God. By your Spirit, truly prepare within us hearts receptive to your presence and open to the coming of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Luke 2)*

One: In this is love, that God gives us the gift of Jesus Christ to remind us of the truth of Immanuel: that God is with us.

All: **This is indeed “good news of great joy for all the people.”**

One: So rejoice and be glad, for in Jesus Christ we are loved, in Jesus Christ we are embraced, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: **“Glory to God in the highest heaven!”**

***THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Joshua 2:1-14

THE ADVENT WREATH (Mothers of Messiah): Rahab



God of the wom - en God of the men
God of the chil - dren too
How do your peo - ple hold on
How do your peo - ple have faith

ROEDER (God of the Sparrow), Tune by Carl Schalk.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Taught by the Prostitute” by Pastor Bill Vincent

***HYMN “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” [GtG 700]**

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me
 an - y - where, Lord, and an - y - time!

I'm gon-na live so God can use me
 an - y - where, Lord, and an - y - time!

Chords: F, Bb/F, F, Gm/F, F, F7, Bb, Eb/Bb, Bb, F, Bb/F, F, N.C., F, Bb/F, F, A7, Dm, Bb6, F/C, Dm7, G7, C7, F, Bb/F, F

2. I'm gonna work so ...

3. I'm gonna pray so ...

4. I'm gonna sing so ...

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In life and in death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,**

**and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.**

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

**we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
 and to live holy and joyful lives,**

**even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
 praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Hear us, O God...
People: ...your mercy is great.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

**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.**

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

O God, as we bring these offerings for the work of your kingdom, we know that the gift without the giver is of little use. So we offer to you today not only these offerings, but ourselves as well, to be used to serve your purposes and to prepare the way for your coming into the hearts of people everywhere. Amen.

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” GtG 82

1. **Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
2. **Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
People: ...Amen.

POSTLUDE

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