

As we wait faithfully for God's time,
we light the candles of
Hope and Peace.



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street

Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111

Church: (716) 692-1319

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

2nd Sunday of Advent

We Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

CCLI License # 2839486

December 4, 2022

10:30am

PRELUDE *Watchmen, Tell Us of the Night*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

Amen. So be it.

GATHERING PRAYER

O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* #100

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - The Barry Family: Linda, Michael and Ryan

The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the fearful world, a vision of gentleness and peace. "The wolf shall live with the lamb," he said, and "the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." Animals we would never trust together will eat right next to each other! And their children will be safe with each other.

All: Animals who like meat will eat plants!

Tiny children will be safe even in the places we expect them to be in danger.

All: God's mountain will be a peaceful place for all people because everyone will know how God wants things to be.

As we wait faithfully for God's time, we light the candles of Hope and Peace.

All: Our peace comes from God, who became one of us in Jesus.

HYMN: *Now It's Time to Light the Candle vs 2*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us lay before God and one another the distances between us, the impatience, idolatries, and lack of compassion that form our confessions this day.

For if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.

Yet in mercy, God will forgive us and renew us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people.

We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation.

We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do.

We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved

children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen. (Time for Silent Confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The reign of God has come near; the repentant will be judged with righteousness. You are forgiven. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of the risen Christ to bring you to new life. Rejoice and believe.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your word, Holy God, was written for our instruction. By your Holy Spirit open our ears and fill us with the mysteries of your ancient love; through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.””

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

SERMON: “New Shoots and Branches”

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

CALL TO THE OFFERING

God is our rock and our fortress. Let us celebrate our salvation by fearlessly giving a portion of what has already been given to us, either by placing it in the basket in the back of the church, or by mailing it in.

OFFERING *In the Bleak Midwinter*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things:
for this universe and for Earth itself,
for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness;
for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision,
setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life;
and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism
and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you.
Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude.
Amen.

SONG BEFORE COMMUNION *Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken* #498

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... with those who have gone before, and those who will come after, we join in the song of all creation:

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.

... we remember what Christ has done for us:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem #121*

CHARGE

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus,
so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Rebecca Chaffee for sharing her gifts with us today.

There will be a Congregational Meeting today following worship. It's important that we all take part in this to help determine the future of our church. The vote will be followed by a Soup and Bread Luncheon and the Presbyterian Women's Annual Tea.

HYMN:

"Now It's Time to Light the Candle"

1. Now it's time to light the candle, soon God's promise will be here.
Young and old we wait together for the Savior drawing near.
Light will overcome the darkness: See the hope the Christ Child brings.

2. Now it's time to light the candle, messengers prepare the way.
Wolf and lamb lie down together; righteousness marks God's new day.
Light will overcome the darkness: Live the peace the Christ Child brings.

3. Now it's time to light the candle, in God's name we will rejoice.
Bells and organ play together, we will shout in one loud voice!
Light will overcome the darkness: Sing the joy the Christ Child brings.

4. Now it's time to light the candle, shining love in Jesus' name.
When all people join together earth will never be the same.
Light will overcome the darkness: Be the love the Christ Child brings.