



First Presbyterian Church

149 Broad Street
Tonawanda, New York 14150 ~ 2111
Church: (716) 692-1319
Rev. Hope Harle-Mould

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God
1st Sunday of Advent
CCLI License # 2839486

November 27, 2022

10:30 am

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
that we may learn God’s ways and walk in God’s paths.
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

GATHERING PRAYER

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: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus #82

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Bonnie Sibley, Janet Schurr, & Sue Schurr

The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the weary world, a vision of the day when God will bring our conflicts to an end. God’s house will be on top of the highest mountain, and people from all over will come to it.

All: God will judge all countries and settle our arguments.

Weapons will be turned into tools for growth.

All: Wars will come to an end.

As we wait faithfully for God’s time, we light the candle of Hope.

All: Our hope is in God, who will bring all nations together.

HYMN: *Now It’s Time to Light the Candle vs 1*

CALL TO CONFESSION

You know what time it is:
Now is the time to wake from sleep.
Salvation is near!
Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of night and day,
there is no shadow that can conceal our sin from you
and no secret that you will not bring to light.
For our reveling and drunkenness, forgive us, O God.
For our debauchery and licentiousness, forgive us, O God.
For our quarreling and jealousy, forgive us, O God.

**O God, forgive us our sins, renew us in love,
and teach us to live in a way that brings honor and glory
to your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Beloved, in your baptism you were bathed in light and clothed with grace. Therefore, put on the Lord Jesus Christ! Know that you are forgiven and live in peace.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God of our people and Lord of every nation, let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will; through Jesus Christ our peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

SERMON: "Walking in God's Paths in the Dark into Light"

Rev. Hope Harle-Mould

**SONG OF DEVOTION: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" with Pastor Hope on guitar
Words by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, music by Casting Crowns**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

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.

THE OFFERTORY

While We Are Waiting, Come

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (vs. 1, 2, 5) #123

CHARGE

About that day and hour no one knows. Therefore keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Be ready, for the Lord will come at an unexpected hour.

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the Spirit's joy surround You as you walk in the light of the Lord.

We would like to thank Rev. Hope Harle-Mould for sharing his gifts with us today.

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.

QUOTATION FOR MEDITATION

“Christians belong where things are out of joint... Amending the defective is the high calling of the follower of Christ... The more we are in touch with the spirit of Christ, the more we are aware of and troubled by the gulf between what is and what ought to be... He stirs us with “divine discontent” that is an impetus to action...

[This] is not to imply that we can change the big things which are wrong in the world all by ourselves...the world is not changed by big events and mighty issues so much as it is altered by the small events and unimportant people in everyday life...Our task is to do what we can in our own small way to set things right...

We were put here to use up our lives in His service. We will be bruised and beaten, but we will know an inner satisfaction which comes only when one seeks to do God’s will and by His power helps to make this world a better place to live in.”

—Rev. Jack Harle, Presbyterian minister and Pastor Hope’s father