



First Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Leslie Latham

Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

Third Sunday in Advent: Share Hope

CCLI License # 2839486

Words to hymns are on the back of the bulletin

December 12, 2021

10:30 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come together in these dark days.

We must look to you now to light our mornings and evenings.

We come seeking renewed joy.

We must look now to each other for our spirits to be renewed.

We come carrying gifts along with the burdens of the year.

We now look within to bring tidings of great joy.

We come to worship God!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Pat Loeswick & Nancy Rolando

How can we share hope?

When others are weary and broken, we strengthen them.

The candle that takes its light from another has light to share.

How can we share hope?

When we are weary and tired, we lean on the hope others provide.

Jesus says, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest."

On this third Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to see hope.

(Light the third candle)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #772 *Live into Hope, verse 3*

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

GATHERING PRAYER

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable peace; in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN: #744 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is near.

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, we are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against us. Do not worry. Live in peace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

Isaiah 12:2-6

Mark 2:1-12

SERMON

Share Hope

The Rev. Leslie Latham

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

Lift Every Voice and Sing

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN:

#100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

CHARGE

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet. Amen.

—Susannah DeBenedetto, www.liturgylink.net

BENEDICTION

Hymns

“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.

2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **Refrain**

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **Refrain**

4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard Is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. **Refrain**

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 12:2-6

²Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the LORD,

call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Mark 2:1-12

¹When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ²So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." ⁶Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷"Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ⁸At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'?" ¹⁰But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he said to the paralytic— ¹¹"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." ¹²And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"