

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

“like a child”

*like a child love would send to reveal and to mend, like a child and a friend, Jesus comes
like a child we may find claiming heart soul and mind, like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.
like a child we will meet, ragged clothes dirty feet like a child on the street, Jesus comes
like a child we once knew coming back into view, like a child born anew, Jesus Comes.
like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a child on the street, Jesus comes
like a child we receive all the love one can conceive, like a child we believe, Jesus comes.*

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Welcome

Isaiah 61 contains familiar words of prophecy: “*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives...*” (61:1). Today’s Scripture talks about good news and gladness. However, it’s not the kind of gladness that’s tied to personal happiness, bright lights or gifts under the tree. It’s not even tied to good economic good news. This gladness is, instead, linked to God’s promise to free us from our pain. *-Pastor Karl*

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Unison Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the promise of the Messiah who came to be the light of the world. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Bless our worship as we gather this day. Help us to hear and do your Word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #160

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

*Awake! Awake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.*

*To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and blindness.*

*In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.*

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.*

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Prayer of Confession

While we ask, dear Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord for not praying, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, Lord God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of your glory. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #180

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & 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.

Prayer Response #177

***Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.
Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.***

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild

the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.” 10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. (NIV)

Sermon

“Isaiah’s Just God”

A Psalm of Joy (126)

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”

The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

GO IN GOD’S NAME

Hymn #153

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

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.

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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Benediction

Thank you for worshipping with us!

