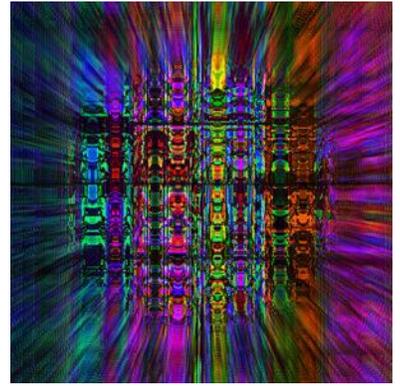


*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
Crossnore, NC 28616*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Choral Call to Worship # 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* WAITING(Cason)
<https://youtu.be/biV3tCDobZI> - James Abbington

While we are waiting come
While we are waiting come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

With power and glory come
With power and glory come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Come Savior quickly come
Come Savior quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

We light this candle in hope. *Light the first candle.*

We light this candle for peace. *Light the second candle.*

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The 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.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

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

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

They 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.

On 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.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all, even our enemies, in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Call to Worship:

Lift up your hearts, people of God, for the Lord has looked favorably upon us and is sending us his beloved son.

He is raising up for us a mighty savior in the house of his servant David.

God is showing the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our ancestors Abraham and Sarah, that we might serve him without fear.

We go before the Lord, following John the Baptist, to prepare the way of the Lord.

Come, let us worship God and listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness.

Hymn of Praise # 88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

Peter Hollens: <https://youtu.be/zshzkkD-NYA>

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

Call to Confession:

Like John the Baptist, we often find ourselves in wildernesses. Sometimes, the toughest wildernesses are the ones we build ourselves. Join me in confessing the sin that so often takes over our lives.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and steadfast God, you come to us with news of hope, freedom, and restoration. We confess that we have not always believed your word or trusted your promise. We have often been silent when we could have spoken your mercy, selfish when we could have shared our time and gifts, and timid when we could have shined your light into the world. God of compassion, hold us gently. Forgive what we have done or failed to do. Free us from the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace, through Jesus Christ (moment of silent confession). In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon:

By the mercy and grace of our Good God, we are able to live in peace with one another for we have been forgiven and Christ welcomes us as a parent welcomes home a long-lost child. **Alleluia! Amen!**

Response to God's Grace and Mercy # 95 Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

<https://youtu.be/FDHX8evCCcA> - The Courtyard Choir, First Presbyterian Church - Stillwater, OK

Prepare the way of the Lord Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God. (Repeat)

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Special Music: *Light of the World* sung by Lauren Daigle: https://youtu.be/_cLhaZIBSpo

Second Lesson: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Sermon: "Traveling to the Wilderness on the Way to Bethlehem" (PDF attachment) Rev. Kathy Campbell

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

As we prepare to offer our gifts to God, reflect on the ways God has touched and blessed your life in this past week. What will you give to God of your time, your talents, and your talents in this week ahead to be used for Christ's ministry and mission in your community and throughout the world? Let us receive this morning's offering.

Doxology # 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

<https://youtu.be/joCinBhj4a4> Acappella Cover - Isaac Robert

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace, and we give in peace. A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear. A peace growing from our trust in your loving power. Receive these generous offerings, and use them to bring your peace to our world. Amen.

Hymn of Meditation # 515 *I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

<https://youtu.be/rVGjrMgiH5U> - First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska

**I come with joy a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free;
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends;
the love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

As you prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper,
place a loaf of bread (or a slice) on a plate and fill a cup with juice or wine.

These are the elements that will be blessed as Christ invites us to share in the joyful feast.

It is Christ who invites us to the table, Christ who feeds us,

and Christ who calls us to share his body with others in ways that are healing, helpful, and hopeful.

Invitation:

This is a season of many mysteries. We gather even as we wrestle with their meaning.

We bring the mysteries of our own lives with us, seeking truths beyond what we can see and know.

As we reflect on God revealed in Christ, so, too, do we reflect on Christ present at this meal.

Christ is the Bread through which we have life and the Vine to which we are connected.

May this time of sharing bread and cup bring us to a new awareness of God's grace embodied in Christ.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Faithful God, we remember the ways you made yourself known in Jesus Christ: how you welcomed, healed, taught, revealed, blessed, challenged, and consoled. We remember that first meal during which he called disciples in all ages to recall his presence at this feast. We remember his death at the hands of oppressors. We remember his victory over sin, death, and earthly powers.

It is you, O God, who invites us to this table not just to remember but to partake of your presence. And yet it is not just here where we find you in communion with us. As we share this meal together, enlighten us to the many ways you are active in the world you have created, and to the ways we may serve you there.

Bless this bread and this fruit of the vine, that we may see and experience you anew. And by that same new awareness, energize us to witness to your presence in all times and places. We pray in the name of Christ, who taught his disciples to pray:

**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.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution:

On the night Jesus was sharing the Passover meal with his disciples,
 the same night he would be betrayed,
 he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, Jesus took the cup and blessed it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
*This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
 given to you for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink this cup, do this in remembrance of me.*

Let us pray:

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and juice
 that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ
 and that we may be his body for the world.

By your Spirit unite us with Christ and one another
 until we feast with him and with all your saints
 in your eternal realm of justice and peace.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever. Amen.

Through the broken bread, our eyes are opened. Christ is with us.

Through the cup of blessing, our hearts are warmed. Christ is changing us.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup:

Pass the bread to the person next to you. As she/he breaks off a piece, say: The Body of Christ given for you.
 Pass the cup to the person next to you and as he/she takes the cup, say: The Blood of Christ shed for you.
 Pass the elements to everyone until all are served.

Unison Prayer after Communion:

We thank you, God, for your wisdom and love personified in Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. Having feasted together at this table, may we be more mindful of the many ways you are sharing yourself with us. By this same awareness, may our relationship with you and with one another ever deepen, and may your kingdom of peace and justice ever expand. In the name of the One for whom we wait, Amen.

Closing Hymn # 110 Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska: <https://youtu.be/Uy9WXwYYcW4>

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 Hear how their song of joy arises:
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love ! Love ! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
 what is the name her heart is saying?
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
 Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

**Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high.**

Charge and Benediction:

Be people of peace.
Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet.
Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear.
Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.
Share peace by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share peace and hope with those you meet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you and with our world in such need of peace.
Amen.

Postlude: *Still, Still, Still*

Sung by Winchester Cathedral Choir: <https://youtu.be/ONWLNofWtwc>