

*Virtual Worship Service for the Lord's Day
The Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022
Crossnore Presbyterian Church
200 Chapel Drive, P.O. Box 386*



Welcome and Church Family News (PDF attachment)

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace (written by Daniel Coffee)

Last week we lit the Candle of Hope. Let us light it now to remember that our hope continues.
(lights a purple candle)

Today we light the Candle of Peace. (lights another purple candle)

Peace is hard to achieve in this life, both internal and external. Wars rage, anxiety flares,
and we are left feeling like there is no place we can go.

Peace is often fleeting like summer birds who have flown away to escape winter.

We are reminded that Jesus is the Prince of Peace,
and in him is the fullness of both internal and external peace.

Jesus shows us how we should live in peace with each other and ourselves.

The Prayer of Saint Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers.

Let us pray:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope; Where there is sadness, joy;

And where there is darkness, light.

Grant that we may seek not so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Choral Call to Worship # 92 *While We Are Waiting Come*

<https://youtu.be/aizsMBcT2GI> - Geneva Presbyterian Church, Laguna Hills, CA

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

Call to Worship:

In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed.

We come to be inspired by stories of a Messiah who will change the world—and change us.

We come to listen for words of hope and joy, promise and challenge.

We come with open ears, open minds, and open hearts.

We come to receive the blessings God has in store for us in this season of waiting.

Come! Let us worship our God—
the One who brings all things to fulfillment.

Hymn of Praise # 82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

<https://youtu.be/pFloWX1yuyQ> - Reawaken Hymns

**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.**

Call to Confession:

In this season of Advent, we are reminded of God's love for us, shown in the impossible act of God becoming incarnate, taking on human flesh, to reach us in love and save us from our worst abilities. This is the God to whom we pray, to whom we make our confession. Let us then come to God with the truth of our lives.

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you, but so often we get in the way of ourselves. We see only the deep sadness of the world, and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow. We assume that things will never get better, and do not see all that is good right now. We close our eyes and complain about the darkness, rather than see the light that shines all around us. Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust, in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again, we will see him, and know him, and rejoice (moment of silent confession). In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends in Christ, hear this Good News! God could not love you any more than God loves you at this very moment. You are that beloved. So, know that wrapped in that love is grace and forgiveness, and a call to go out into the world to love.

Alleluia! Amen.

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

PREPARE THE WAY

https://youtu.be/GpZ_FowUKUQ- Duluth First UMC Chamber Choral, Duluth, GA

**Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Special Music: *Christ, Be Our Light*

<https://youtu.be/Zlq3bhdgQoc>

Second Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon: "Preparing for Christmas in the Wilderness" (PDF Attachment)

Rev. Kathy Campbell

Affirmation of Faith:

Jesus has taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's Kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world

turning hopeless and evil situations into good.

**We believe that goodness and justice and love will triumph in the end,
and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.**

One day 'all tears will be wiped away'

and 'the lamb will lie down with the lion.'

**True peace and true reconciliation are not only desirable,
they are assured and guaranteed.**

This is our faith, and our hope.

(adapted from a South African Creed)

Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings:

Through our offerings, we are invited to put God first in our lives, to show our gratitude and our commitment. We owe everything to God: our lives, our health, people who love us, meaningful work and activities. Let us respond in proportion to our gratitude.

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.

Doxology # 609 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

<https://youtu.be/qZfWUsFcaCA> - River Road Presbyterian Church

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn of Meditation # 507 *Come to the Table of Grace*

<https://youtu.be/wDQxUdHyumE> - United Church in University Place, WA.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of peace.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of love.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of hope.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of joy.

Come to the table of joy.

This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.

Come to the table of joy.

The 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 the joyful feast of the people of God!

People will come from north and south and from east and west to sit at the table in the kingdom of God.

This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share in the feast he has prepared.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad.

We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people Israel,
and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life.

Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us.

Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us.

Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:
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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.
Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.
Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love,
that we may serve as your faithful disciples
until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God,
through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution:

On the night that he was betrayed,
Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you,
he 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, saying:
*This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.*

Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

Pass the bread to the person next to you and say,
“The Body of Christ given for you.”

Pass the cup to the person next to you and say,
“The Blood of Christ shed for you.”

Prayer after Communion:

God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
to be the Body of Christ
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Closing Hymn # 93 *Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates*

Sing along with First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, NE: <https://youtu.be/fTYDOfyW734>

**Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.**

**Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.**

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 God's beautiful and broken world.
Amen.

**Sometimes the world feels too silent, God;
Not without sound,
but without any sound that makes sense.
In all the noise of human sin and pain,
we miss the sound of your voice.**

**So, we pray for Messengers to speak again your word of Restoration,
that prepares us
to welcome again your visitation.**

**Messengers of listening and forgiveness
to silence the noise of conflict and hatred;
Messengers of seeing and empathy
to silence the noise of stereotyping and disengagement;
Messengers of hope and responsibility
to silence the noise of negativity and apathy;
Messengers of faith and perseverance
to silence the noise of resignation and expediency.**

**In every place where people need to hear your word,
may your Messengers speak, and if need be,
give us the courage to be the Messengers. Amen.**

(prayer written by John van de Laar, sacredise.com)