

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Northside Presbyterian Church – December 5, 2021

(Please pick up a hymnal if you prefer to use one when singing)

GATHERING MUSIC – Pat Fullen

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP*

A voice cries, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Lift every valley; lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord.

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

HYMN* *"Prepare the Way, O Zion"* (106, v. 1, 3)

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

**3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.**

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

THE CANDLELIGHTING – Ernie and Sue Bentley

Our Advent journey continues as we get ready to meet the promised Lord. As the prophet says, "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way . . . But who can endure the day of his coming? . . . He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. They will belong to the Lord, presenting a righteous offering.

The first candle reminds us of God's loving promise of a Savior.

As we light the second candle, we are reminded that we must prepare our hearts and minds.

God prepares the way for all to be saved; together we anticipate the day of his coming.

Let us pray. Lord of hosts, you are coming to purify our hearts and refine us so that we may be pleasing, living offerings to you. As we prepare ourselves for the arrival of the Christ, may we bring honor and glory to your name—and may we prepare the way for others to meet you. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)

**Candles glowing, promise showing holy peace so still and bright.
New tomorrow, free from sorrow—living in Christ's holy light.
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior—
Living in Christ's holy light! Living in Christ's holy light!**

CONFESSION

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT – Malachi 3:1-4 – Sue Bentley

OFFERING OF MUSIC

GOSPEL – Luke 3:1-6

SERMON – “The Fear of Home”

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table – “*Come, Let Us Eat*” (528, v. 1-3) – Jack Webster

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. **(repeat)** Our Lord's body let us take together. **(repeat)**

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured. **(repeat)** Jesus' blood poured, let us drink together. **(repeat)**

In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest; (repeat) In the presence of our Lord we gather. **(repeat)**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Therefore, we praise you, even here, even now, joining our voices to the angel chorus:

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!

... we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer: Thank you, God. We are filled with hope for the angels still sing in our world, and still there is a star to follow. We are filled with love, for we have seen and tasted the sign of God's great love. Hope, peace, joy, and love—these are gifts of God for those whose hearts and minds are in Christ Jesus, Bethlehem baby, Servant Lord. Amen.

HYMN* - *"John Spoke as a Prophet, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette"* (tune: To God Be the Glory)

John spoke as a prophet, a voice to be heard. He preached in the desert, proclaiming God's word: "Come here and be baptized, and God will forgive!" He taught all those people a new way to live. God of truth! God of grace! Hear our cry and forgive! May your church in this place find a new way to live. Confront us and heal us, until we all learn The life that is ours when we're willing to turn.

The valleys below will be filled to the brim, The mountains above will be made low for him, The rough, crooked ways will be made smooth and broad, And all flesh shall see the salvation of God. God of truth! God of grace! Hear our cry and forgive! May your church in this place find a new way to live. Confront us and heal us, until we all learn The life that is ours when we're willing to turn.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG (110, v. 1)

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!

Please be in prayer for:

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| Revathi Balakrishnan | Drew Taylor & family | Randall Wentworth |
| Edd Stoops | Susan Dickerson | Andy & Jean Robeson |
| Ron Pearson | | Susan Miller |
| Wanda Price | Frances Hutcheson/Dowdy | Dennis Sweeney |
| Jeff Kallas (Bronwyn Robinson's husband) | | Jerry Robinson |
| Tammy McClintock | Larry Loughborough | Gavin Adams |
| Louise Bloss | David Meincke | Betty Simpkins |
| Harvey Sowers | Philip Tompkins | Lindsay Salany |

All those suffering with Covid or grieving the loss of a loved one

Musicians: Marya Katz, Charles Bostian, Ann Marie Conner, Jack Webster, Pat Fullen (varies)
Video Technicians – Marshall Chaney, Bruce Harper, Alex Chaney