

CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN
December 23, 2018



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Christ Church Presbyterian
4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

10:30 A.M.

Called to love, serve and witness.

Thought as we enter worship
A Christmas candle is a lovely thing. It makes no noise at all, but softly gives itself away.
–Eva Logue

GATHERING

Quiet meditation time (Please fill out a blue or pink card with any prayer requests and put it in the collection plate.) – Thanks

Welcome & Announcements

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end, a symbol of God's unending love.

Jesus is the brightest revelation of God's love because he is love incarnate.

We light the first candle to remind ourselves of the hope we have in Christ.

That through Jesus, we are included into God's family because of that love.

We celebrate Christ Jesus, who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

We light the second candle to remind us of the compassion God shows us in leaving everything to rescue us from our own folly.

For Jesus is our peace, the one who has taken all the ways humanity divides itself and destroyed the barriers between them.

He came and preached peace to those who were far from God and to those who were near, so that through him we all have access in one Spirit to the Father.

We light the third candle to remind ourselves of that peace.

The day is coming when everyone will want to come to God so he can teach us his requirements, and we can follow his standards.

We light the fourth candle in hope for the day when God will reign over all people.

Because God will judge disputes between nations; they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

There will no longer be any conflict.

All humanity will seek to live in the light of God.

Come, let us walk in the LORD's guiding light.

*HYMN GREEN #91 *“Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn”*

***INVOCATION (Opening Prayer)**

O Lord, we celebrate your coming into our world, bringing life and light. In your mercy, you come into our darkness, overwhelming it with the light of your being. As we celebrate Christmas, may we live our lives anticipating the time when you will reign in glory, bringing peace and wholeness to our broken, sinful world. **Amen.**

READING

Come and stand amazed, you people, see how God is reconciled!

See his plans of love accomplished, see his gift, this newborn child.

See the Mighty, weak and tender, see the Word who now is mute.

See the Sovereign without splendor, see the Fullness destitute;

The Beloved, whom we covet, in a state of low repute.

See how humankind received him; see him wrapped in swaddling bands,

Who as Lord of all creation rules the wind by his commands.

See him lying in a manger without sign of reasoning;

Word of God to flesh surrendered, he is wisdom’s crown, our King.

See how tender our Defender at whose birth the angels sing.

O Lord Jesus, God incarnate, who assumed this humble form,

Counsel me and let my wishes to your perfect will conform.

Light of life, dispel my darkness, let your frailty strengthen me;

Let your meekness give me boldness, let your burden set me free;

Let your sadness give me gladness, let your death be life for me. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace, love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.

* GREEN #80 *“Open Our Eyes, Lord”*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Candles of Christmas

Candle of Preparation

Candle of Anticipation

“Could This Be the Day?” ...Joseph Martin

Candle of Visitation

“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus” ...Nancy M. Raabe

Carols of the Manger

Congregational Hymns: Please remain seated

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” #27 Verse 1

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” #44 Vs. 1 & 2

Candle of Adoration

Congregational Hymn: Please remain seated

“Away in a Manger” #25 All Verses

Candle of Declaration

“Hurry to Bethlehem” ...Lloyd Larson

“We Wait” ..Ruth Elaine Schram

Pam Patrick – clarinet

Candle of Consecration

“What Can I Give Him?” ...Mark Schweizer

Candle of Proclamation

“God Rest, Ye Merry Gentlemen” ...arr. Georgiann Toole

Congregational Hymn: #41 All Verses

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

THE PEOPLE OF GOD RESPOND

THE OFFERING

*LIFTING PRAISE TO GOD – HYMN #593 The Doxology

*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

O Lord, you created us to live in fellowship with you and then you redeemed us so we could be your children. In gratitude for your amazing grace and in joy because of your mercy, we give ourselves to you - as living sacrifices for you to use as you will. Please take our offering as a token of that commitment. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We give you praise and thanks, O Lord that you have called us to be your children. We are grateful for your love that led you to die for us and offer ourselves as your servants to be conduits of your love and grace in the world. With joy we thank you for the ways our congregation has shown your love this week. We praise you for your grace, honor you for your love and rejoice in your mercy. With deepest gratitude we proclaim you God.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O God of compassion, we ask that our hearts be moved to show compassion for others. We especially pray for those who have suffered the loss of loved ones, home, food and shelter. We pray for all those who are prisoners, those who suffer addictions, and those who suffer daily. We remember before you the sick and dying, those who are lonely, those who are victims of war, terror, and injustice. We ask for mercy for those who suffer abuse especially those who are enslaved and grace for those who oppress others. We recall all those who have worshipped with us in the past and are unable to do so today.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord of the nations, we pray for all those who exercise authority over others. May they remember that their power is granted them to care for their people. May they pursue peace and justice as they seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Help us all remember we need your love and grace. Grant us the courage to model your mercy to those around us.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Lord Jesus, you are the head of the church, the beginning and the end of all things. Grant to the church universal your mercy as we struggle to follow you. Look we pray with mercy upon the ministry of this congregation which you have called together with grace and kindness. Increase our courage, strengthen our faith, and inspire our witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth.

[Time for Silent Congregational Prayer]

O Gracious God, the source of all love and goodness, bless us with your Spirit as we seek to do your will. May we keep our hearts and thoughts on you through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray, saying:

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.

SENDING OUT IN SERVICE

***HYMN BLUE #4 "Creator of the Stars of Night"**

***CHARGE TO THE PEOPLE**

***BENEDICTION**

Because of our God's tender mercy

The dawn has broken upon us from on high

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

And to guide our feet into the way of peace

That we, being rescued, may serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him for as long as we live.

Glory to God in the highest

And on earth, peace to all people. (Cf. Luke 1:74,75,78,79, 2:14,)

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

***HYMN BLUE #41 CHORUS ONLY "O Come Let Us Adore Him"**

POSTLUDE

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Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall after the service.

Church office hours: 8 am to Noon Monday through Thursday.

For emergencies call The Rev. Tim Dyck 319-321-4154