

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 10, 2017
Second Sunday Of Advent

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING RESPONSE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 85)

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

For God will speak peace to his people.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

That God's glory may dwell in our land.

* HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" 2

Advent Candle Lighting –The Candle of Peace

Congregational Response: verse 2, "Now It's Time to Light the Candle"

(to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

"Now it's time to light the candle, Messengers prepare the way.

Wolf and lamb lie down together; Righteousness marks god's new day.

Light will overcome the darkness: Live the peace the Christ Child brings."

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

O God of forgiveness, we are sinful people. With our tongues we speak evil against sisters and brothers. By our actions, we disobey your commandments. Hostility is bred through our suspicion and envy; anger continues in spite of Christ's peace. You open our eyes to his righteousness, yet we remain blind to the truth of his reconciling presence among us. Forgive our deliberate misuse of your mercy, for we pray through Christ our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

* HYMN "Prepare The Way" 13

SECOND READING Mark 1:1-8

SERMON "Cry Out!" Rev. Janell Blair

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Study Catechism

Q.63 What is the mission of the church?

A. **The mission of the church is to bear witness to God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.**

Q.64 What forms does this mission take?

A. **The forms are as various as the forms of God's love, yet the center is always Jesus Christ. The church is faithful to its mission when it extends mercy and forgiveness to the needy in ways that point finally to him.**

Q.65 Who are the needy?

A. **The hungry need bread, the homeless need a roof, the oppressed need justice, and the lonely need fellowship. At the same time—on a deeper level—the hopeless need hope, sinners need forgiveness, and the world needs the gospel. On this level no one is excluded, and all the needy are one. Our mission as the church is to bring hope to a desperate world by declaring God's undying love—as one beggar tells another where to find bread. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY
*DOXOLOGY

* HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" 8

POSTLUDE

***Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand**

- Welcome:** To all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!
- Announcements:** Session meets today after worship.
Our Christmas Eve worship schedule is as follows: morning worship at 10:30am and evening worship (with communion and candlelight) at 5:00pm.
- Birthdays:** December 11 – Marilyn Pearce, 14 – Chris Anderson, 16 – Scott Winegar.
- Anniversaries:** December 15 – Robert and Debbie Winegar.
- Flowers:** No Flowers were purchased this week.
- Refreshments:** Aleyene Watkins, provided refreshments for the Congregation today.
- Newsletter:** Deadline to submit articles and information for January newsletter is **December 20, 2017**. If you have an article or announcement please turn it in to Silvia or slip it under the door to her office.

Pastor: Rev. Janell Blair (361) 920-2492

Pianist: Marilyn Pearce

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9: 30 a.m. Sunday School – Upstairs Parlor Sunday School - Room 104 Ed. Wing
10: 1 0 a.m. Fellowship Time – Southeast Vestibule **Session Meets** – Today after Worship.
10: 30 a.m. Morning Worship

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