

Westminster Presbyterian Church
November 28th, 2021 | 10:00am
Live Streaming | In Person

Order of Worship November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music *“Here I Am To Worship”*

Steven Johnson

*Light of the world You stepped down into darkness;
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You;
Hope of a life spent with You.*

*Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.*

*King of all days, O so highly exalted;
Glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created;
All for love's sake became poor. (Refrain 2x)*

“Arise, Shine”

*Arise, shine, for thy Light is come. Arise, shine, for thy Light is come
And the glory of the Lord is risen, the glory of the Lord is come
The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.*

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Lighting the Advent Candle

Ekas-Hebrank-Crowe Families

*Light the Advent candle one. Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way. Time to think of Christmas day.*

Chorus:

***Candle, candle burning bright, shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.***

Light Candle 1

One candle, burning brings, chasing away the darkness from light.
One candle, glowing light, the blessing of God, giving new sight.

Scripture: Isaiah 2:2- 3

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's houses shall be
established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above

the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Prayer: God of light, place a candle in our hearts, so we may walk as children of the Light, treading gently on the paths of peace and ever ready to welcome the signs of new life. Amen

Call To Worship

Deb Norton

God of Hope, we come into your presence this morning with confidence that you will meet us here. Where there is sadness, bring joy; where there is tiredness, bring refreshment; where there is despair, bring a renewed sense of hope. Where in this House of God, all are welcome to worship, in comfort, and in peace.

Hymn: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

GTG #82

1 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.

2 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.

Preparing For The Word

Call to Confession

Deb Norton

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days. But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life. Let us approach the one who waits for us.

Prayer of Confession

O God, It is never easy for us to confess our sins. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help. Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom. Teach us your truth, so we might be able

to keep your Word, revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Words of Forgiveness

God does not remember our sins, but does remember the promises which have been made to us. God does not shame us, but lifts us to new life.

Lead us in your hope, O God, and teach us your love. You are the God of our days, we wait for you to come to us. Amen.

written by Thom Shuman, and posted on [Lectionary Liturgies](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/). <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hearing the Word

Message for all God's Children:

Rev. Barbara

Macfie

"Happy New Year"

Prayer of Illumination

Deb

Norton

Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Deb

Norton

14 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Rev. Barbara

Macfie

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. 11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v1

GTG #88

*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!

Sermon: "Adventus"

Rev. Barbara

Macfie

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

Rev Barbara

Macfie

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naive people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and

joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

Amen.

Anthem: "Come to the Light"

Choir

Offertory

Deb

Norton

Our gifts this morning are one way we prepare for God's coming into the world in the most unexpected ways. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. AMEN*

Offertory Prayer

Deb

Norton

Accept, O Lord, the offering we seek to make, of ourselves and our money; and grant that we may ever work and pray to contribute to a world of hope, love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Rev Barbara

Macfie

Hymn: *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
"GTG #93*

*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.*

Benediction

Rev Barbara

Macfie

Postlude

Steven

Johnson

Thank you to those involved in worship today:

Rev. Barbara Anne Macfie

Ushers: Charlotte Jacobs and Lois Ann Rayner

Liturgist: Deb Norton

Advent Candle: Ekas-Hebrank-Crowe Families

Musicians: Steve Johnson and Choir

Remember in Prayer

Pray for all those

touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:

*Lois Rayner's great granddaughter, **Charlotte Burton**, is recovering nicely following a sudden illness.*

*Nancy Shapiro's brother-in-law, **Charlie Brabant**, who lost both parents and his sister this year, is seriously ill and scheduled to undergo 2 surgeries on Monday.*

Theresa Altvater (Sarah Altvater's grandmother)

Linda Book

Chuck Burton (Lois Raynor's relative)

Jay Carlson (Clare MacDonald's son-in-law)

Ed Carter

Pauline Cottingham

Frances Cowgill

Peter Culin (Sue Culin's brother-in-law)

Bill and Sandra Hrin

Lib Macnab

Marcy

Sharon

Lacey Meade (Betty Pratt's daughter)

Rev. Innocent Mabuza

Karen Reed Noel (Jim Reed's half-sister)

Betty Pratt

Robbie

Janet Waugaman (Sally Waugaman's daughter)

Our church has a prayer chain of members who will pray for any person you ask. Contact Leslie Marsh by phone at 302-542-9927 or email at cmarshjr@verizon.net

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