



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6624 Public Square, Independence, Ohio; (216) 524-6307; office@ipcusa.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 6, 2020



Separation Wall Graffiti, Jerusalem

C.J. Briggs, Music Director
Julie Lehmann, Secretary

Carol Tomasko, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

“Before we went on any protest, whether it was sit-ins or the freedom rides or any march, we prepared ourselves, and we were disciplined. We were committed to the way of peace – the way of non-violence – the way of love – the way of life as the way of living.” – John Lewis

GATHERING

Gathering Prayer

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Robin Dinda

Lighting the Advent Candles (*Is. 11:6*) Kelly and Guy Savastano

In this season of longing,
we light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

As the Holy One has promised, in days to come:
the wolf will go and live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
**the baby cow and lion cub will be friends,
and a small child shall lead them.**

In peace, let us walk in the light of the Holy One. Amen.

Response “Clear Out the Crowded Heart” Austin Echols

*Clear out the cluttered heart, lest like the crowded inn,
there is no room, no way to part a path to let Christ in.*

Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 85*)* Carol Tomasko

O God of salvation,
let us hear what you may speak,
for you speak peace to your people.
Let us turn our hearts to you,
for you bring peace to the faithful.
Surely salvation is close at hand,
may your glory soon dwell among us.
Righteousness will light the way,
and make a pathway for your steps.

In the light of peace, come let us worship God.

Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”
Genevan Psalter

GTG #87

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen. [Time of Silent Confession]

Response

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
arr. by Rudolf Moser

GTG #88

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

“Peace is an Offering”

Annette LeBox

Pictures by Stephanie Graegin

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 40:1-11

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

(NRSV)

Hear what the Holy Spirit is telling God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Longing for Peace

Rev. David Wigger

Affirmation of Faith (*from a Short Declaration of Faith*)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

...In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, **God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, **God is faithful still.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering

Response

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

GTG #82

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Eucharist

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our praise.

...Therefore with all creation we sing your praise:

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.

Communion Hymn “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

GTG #687

SENDING

Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

GTG #129

Michael Pratorious arr. Brahms

Advent Charge

Postlude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. Sam Blakeslee



Pieces of today’s liturgy are from *Presbyterian Outlook*, Roger Gench;
Feasting on the Word, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long; and
Together We Pray, J. Bradley Wigger

GTG = *Glory to God* (PCUSA Hymnal)

*For all responsive liturgy, leader will read the parts in regular type,
and the congregation may respond with the words in bold.

News and Announcements

At this time Independence Presbyterian Church is planning on holding two Christmas Eve services this year. Both services will be in-person and live-streamed. Each service can hold up to 50 people in-person (25% of the sanctuary capacity) with COVID protocols in place. If you would like to attend one of the services in-person, please sign-up by filling out the form on our website, or calling or emailing the office. We ask for you to provide contact information in case of cancellation due to the coronavirus. Here is the link: bit.ly/christmasIPC

The Evening Circle is again coordinating Holiday donations to Family Promise, a Cleveland organization offering support for families in housing transition. Donation information is available on the bulletin board by the church office with gift suggestions including housewares, select gift cards, toys and pajamas for children, as well as holiday wrapping paper and gift bags. Donations accepted until December 6 in the blue bins in the back of the sanctuary.

The city of Independence has put out a request for bell ringers for the Salvation Army. COVID19 has had a damaging impact on the S.A. and volunteer participation is significantly lower this year. The specific day's they are requesting help are every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from **November 27th through December 24.** The shifts begin at 10am and end at 6pm and are assigned in 1 hour increments. The location is the Giant Eagle located at I-77 and Route 82. To volunteer contact Independence Community Services at 216-524-7373.

We are still collecting Pledge cards for our stewardship campaign. You can mail them back or if you would like to drop them off, there is a collection stand just inside the main door to the church. The office hours are Monday through Thursday 9am-12pm or you can bring it when you come to worship.

***We have been told by a few congregants that they have not received their cards, also we have had some returned as undeliverable through the mail. We believe we have remedied the situation, but in case you still have not received one, let us know and we will certainly get another to you.

Sunday, December 6
Second Sunday of Advent

Wednesday, December 9
Session Meeting, 7pm

Sunday, December 13
Third Sunday of Advent
Installation/Ordination Service

Tuesday, December 15
Mission Meeting, 7pm

Wednesday, December 16
Session Meeting, 7pm

Thursday, December 17
Property and Finance, 7pm

Sunday, December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service, 8 pm

Daily Prayers for Advent Reflection: Week 2
December 6 - 12

Sunday: *God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way.*

Monday: *Make us ready, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.*

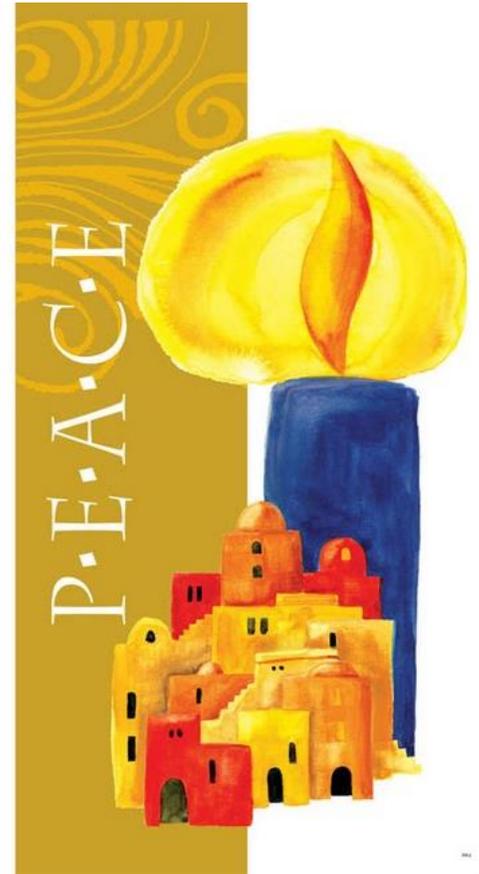
Tuesday: *God of hope, you raised up John the baptizer as a herald who calls us to conversion. As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, we pray to you for the needs of the world.*

Wednesday: *God of hope, you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Thursday: *Hear our humble prayer that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

Friday: *God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness.*

Saturday: *By your grace, transform our prayers from words to deeds, that we may live as a holy people in the dawn of your peace, redeemed from all that divides us.*



From *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, based on Advent lectionary:
Isaiah 40:1-11 • Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 • 2 Peter 3:8-15a • Mark 1:1-8