



INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29, 2020



Richmond Barthe, *Rose McClendon in Prayer*. Photo by Via Tsuji

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

Karen Shallcross, Liturgist
Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

“The church year begins in longing. The liturgical cycle starts with the season of Advent, a season of waiting for the coming of Christ into the world.” -Amy Plantinga Pauw

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

O God, we confess our passivity, our lack of vigilance in discerning the possibilities that you open up for us to participate in your healing, restoring work in our world and in our own lives. We have succumbed to paralyzing fears. We have ignored and even resisted the prodding of your Spirit, nudging us out of self-absorption and inertia. Empower us by your Spirit to be attentive, discerning and ready partners in our cosmic restoration project. Amen.

Response

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
French Antiphon**

GTG #88

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:
**We are forgiven and restored,
set on right paths of justice and peace.
Thanks be to God!**

Passing of the Peace

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

THE WORD

Children’s Moment

“Owl Moon”

Jane Yolen

ipcusa.org/children-and-families

Prayer of Illumination

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

(NRSV)

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

Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 64:1-12

(The Message)

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

Affirmation of Faith (*from a Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed and blessing children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving
sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

With believers in every time and place,

**we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the
love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Alleluia. Amen.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering

Response

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Charles Wesley

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.**

SENDING

Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God”
Eddie Espinosa

GTG #695

Advent Charge (Responsive)

(based on Romans 13)

Wake up, wake up!

Awake from your sleep: salvation is near!

The sun is rising, it's time to get going!

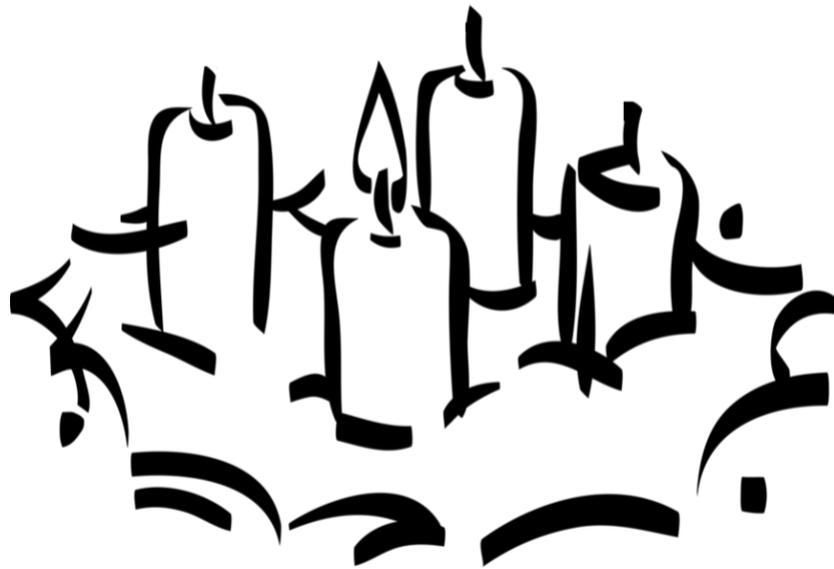
The night is fading; the day is close at hand.

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

Postlude

“Savior of the Nations, Come”
BWV 599

J.S. Bach



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

Worship assistants and liturgists are needed to finish up the year! All the Sunday's of December are available for volunteers. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of the office. Feel free to contact the office at 216-524-6307 - ipcusaorg@gmail.com or Carol Tomasko at - ttomasko1489@gmail.com and we will happily add your name.

Calling all singles, couples, families and friends to help commemorate advent! We are still looking for congregants to light the Advent candles this season. If you would like to do it solo, or group together; in-person or virtually it's your choice. It's such a lovely way to participate in this exciting time of year and we would love to see the start of some new traditions. There is a sign-up sheet next to the worship assistant sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or feel free to get in touch with the office (216-524-6307 or ipcusaorg@gmail.com) to sign-up.

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, November 29
First Sunday of Advent

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
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 1
November 29 – December 5

Sunday: *God of justice and peace, from the heavens you rain down mercy and kindness, that all on earth may stand in awe and wonder before your marvelous deeds.*

Monday: *Raise our heads in expectation, that we may yearn for the coming day of the Lord and stand without blame before your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

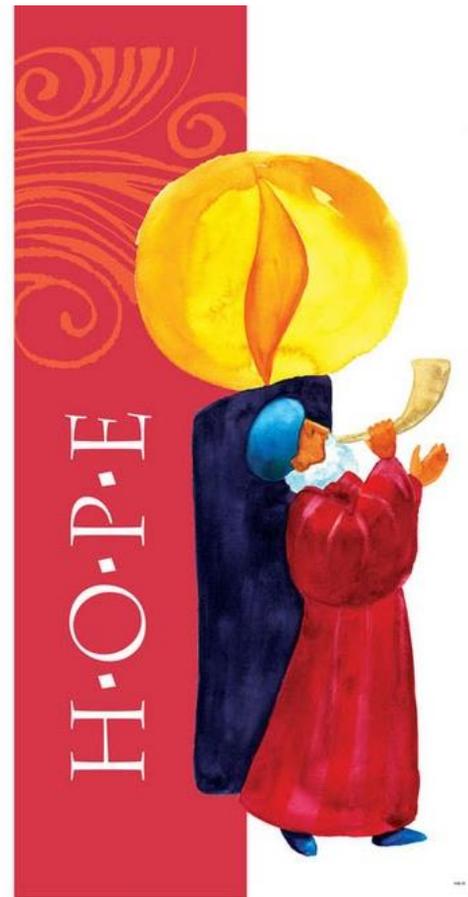
Tuesday: *We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb. May God hear these prayers, which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.*

Wednesday: *Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.*

Thursday: *Creator of the world, you are the potter, we are the clay, and you form us in your image.*

Friday: *Shape our spirits by Christ's transforming power, that as one people we may live out your compassion and justice, whole and sound in the realm of your peace.*

Saturday: *Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room.*



From *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers*, based on Advent lectionary:
Isaiah 64:1-9 • Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 • 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 • Mark 13:24-37