

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent



GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

“Glory to God”

Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest, in the highest!

Glory, glory, glory to God. Glory, glory, glory to God in the highest, in the highest!

Peace on earth goodwill to men.

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid.

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid.

Repeat

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Welcome

Advent has arrived. The first week of Advent has to deal with the shock of it all. Is it time? Already? Sure, the world has been giving Christmas hints for months now, but it still seems to surprise us every year. Perhaps it is because we don't start with the Christmas story. That would be a little more familiar. But no, we start with the warning signs, with the forecast for stormy skies ahead. We start with a prophetic call to look at the world we inhabit. How close are we to the kingdom we proclaim? How close are we to this coming “on earth as it is in heaven” for which we pray week after week? Advent is about being honest. But not hopeless. Advent is about the joy of longing for home—the kind of home that will complete us, the kind of home that will transform us, as well as the whole world. Today is about helping us remember that we have a mission and a hope. Thanks so very much for joining us at Ken Mawr today. -Pastor Karl

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Unison Prayer

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with upright hearts and joyful souls we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #154

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits by thy advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

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Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. This day, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #229

**The first Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Anthem

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.

Prayer Response #228

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.
"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to all begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"**

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Luke 21:25-36

25 *"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."* 29 He told them this parable: *"Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 "Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."* (NIV)

Sermon

"Simple Faithfulness"

Our Song of Hope—a statement from the Reformed Church in America (1978)

**Our only hope is Jesus Christ.
After we refused to live in the image of God,
he was born of the virgin Mary,
sharing our genes and our instincts,
entering our culture, speaking our language,
fulfilling the law of God.
Being united to Christ's humanity,
we know ourselves when we rest in him.
Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn #342

"Rejoice the Lord Is King" 1

Rejoice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains, he took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail, he rules both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope for Christ the Judge shall come
To gather all his saints to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
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Benediction

Thank you for worshipping with us!

