

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



An Inclusive Community of Faith
United by Our Belief in and Commitment to Jesus Christ



Westminster Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Worship of God
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

We Gather in God's Word

Prelude

Harp

Welcome and Announcements

Martha Brothers

Jesus says, I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Interlude

Harp

Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle

Martha Brothers

Jamie Brooks

Family: We light one candle expecting peace. It is a sign of the growing light of Christ.
For the Lord has promised in the days to come...
The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;

**People: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war any more.**

Family: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid.

People: The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together.

Prayer of the Day

***Hymn #386**

“O for a World”

AZMON

*O for a world where everyone Respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is one With justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared And misery relieved.
Where truth is spoken, children spared, Equality achieved.*

*We welcome one world family And struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity And gives our vision voice.*

*The poor are rich, the weak are strong, The foolish ones are wise,
Tell all who mourn; Outcasts be long, Who perishes will rise.*

*O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, And all but love will cease.*

Call to Confession

Hymn #4 (sung to Tallis Canon)

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.*

Prayer of Confession

Lord, forgive the iniquity of your people. Pardon our sin so that we may hear your words of peace and learn speak them to one another.

Silent confession of personal and corporate sin.

Remembering God's mercy, we continue our prayer.

Through the gracious leading of your Spirit, may we walk together with you on paths of righteousness and begin again to tell the good news of your redeeming and reconciling love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Response of Praise**

*To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.*

***Passing the Peace**

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

We Hear God's Word

Time for All God's Children

Prayer for Illumination

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with^[f] water; but he will baptize you with^[g] the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Caroline V. Dennis

“Expecting Peace”

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Mark 1:1

We Respond to God’s Word

***Hymn #30**

“Born in the Night, Mary’s Child”

MARY’ CHILD

*Born in the night, Mary’s Child, a long way from your home;
coming in need, Mary’s Child, born in a borrowed room.*

*Clear shining light, Mary’s Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary’s Child, dawn on our darkened day.*

*Truth of our life, Mary’s Child, you tell us God is good;
yes, it is true, Mary’s Child, shown on your cross of wood.*

*Hope of the world, Mary’s Child, you’re coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary’s Child, walk in our streets again.*

Call to Offering

Offertory

Harp

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of the LORD's Supper

Invitation to the LORD's Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the LORD.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

[The prayer continues.]

Leader: Therefore...with all the faithful of every time and place, we sing your praise:

People: 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.

[The prayer continues.]

Leader: ...As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

People: 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.

Words of Institution

Leader: The gifts of GOD for the people of GOD.

People: Thanks be to GOD!

The Communion of the People

[Please hold the bread and cup until everyone has been served.

We will partake of the elements together.]

Prayer after Communion

***Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of GOD, begotten of the Father before all worlds. GOD of GOD, Light of Light, very GOD of very GOD, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made: who, for us and for

our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again, with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

***Hymn #376**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

HYFRYDOL

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that second rest;
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.*

*Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Organist: Claire Kuhl

Vocalist: William Butler

Harpist: Debi Ward