



Central Presbyterian Church

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December 8, 2024
2nd Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Announcements

Please take a quiet moment to prepare your heart for worship.

Prelude

Prayer of Preparation *(for your personal use, during Prelude)*

Father in heaven, who sent Your Son to redeem the world and will send Him again to be our judge, give us grace so to imitate Him in the humility and purity of His first coming, that when He comes again, we may be ready to greet Him with joyful love and firm faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Luke 1:68-77 (Zechariah’s Song)**

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.

P: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of His servant David,

L: as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,

P: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

L: Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered His holy covenant.

P: The oath that He swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear,

L: in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

P: and you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins.

***Hymn “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” PH #10**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Lord God, we know that You are the author of love. You even sent Your Son as the Lord of Love, calling us to a higher standard of love. We thought, “loving our neighbor as our self was hard!” Now we hear from our Savior’s lips that we are to love as He has loved us. How are we going to get close to that beautiful ideal without Your divine grace? Thank You for giving us an extra dose of Your grace this advent season so that we may sing and serve and love as You have loved us. Thank You for forgiving us when we fall short. Thank You for Your unconditional love for us.. Amen.

(Time of silence for personal reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: And also with you.

*Gloria Patri *“Glory Be to the Father”* PH #579

Special Music *“Our Day of Joy is Here Again”*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lighting of Advent Wreath (the Candle of Love)

Brianne, Ethan & Ava Satorius

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-6

Sermon Text Malachi 3:1-4

Sermon *“Indeed, He is Coming!”* Pastor Ryan

*Hymn *“People, Look East”* PH #12

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – *“Advent Statement of Faith”*

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 naïve 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.

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

L: God of Mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

PH #591

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD**

***Hymn** *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*

PH #22

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Edgecombe

Greeter/Usher: Beth Kinningham

Liturgist: Steve Territo

Pianist/Organist: Emma Lou Denton

Bethany Edgecombe

Rich Ford

Julia Territo

****Please stand, if able***

CCLI License #2716138

Hymnals: PH-blue hard cover; Red-red hard cover; SF-small blue soft cover

*Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Illumination written by Pastor Ryan.

**Advent Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Rebecca Harrison