

**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2023**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Listen to what the Lord our God says:

**He promises peace to his people,  
who are his beloved saints.**

The Lord will indeed give what is good.

**Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.**

May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us  
in this time of Advent worship.

May we see God's face and so know peace. **Amen.**

—based on Psalm 85:7-13, NIV

 **Invocation**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

God of Israel,  
with expectant hearts  
we your people await Christ's coming.  
As once he came in humility,  
so now may he come in glory,  
that he may make all things perfect  
in your everlasting kingdom.  
For he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

*Come, Light Our Hearts*

*McCracken*

*Chorus*

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*

*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*

*Truly our hope is in You.*

*Truly our hope is in You.*

Verse 1

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines on all who look  
to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come,  
come light our hearts.

Chorus

Verse 2

O joy above all other loves,  
in You we find more than enough.  
We come as we are;  
O heal and restore,  
come light our hearts.

Chorus

Tag

Truly our hope is in You.

**Second Advent Candle Reading**

*Elizabeth Dilks*

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in peace,  
the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.  
**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**



**Hymn 124**  
**125**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Verses 1—2)*  
*Joy to the World! (Verses 1,2,4)*

**Confessing**

***God invites us to be honest with Him***

**Call to Confession**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Prepare the way of the Lord! Let us make our confession to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts  
to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace.  
We confess to you the ways in which  
we block the peace of Christ in our lives.  
**God of peace, hear our prayer.**  
The rushing and scurrying to get things done,  
**we confess to you, O God of peace.**  
The worry about the little details,  
**we confess to you, O God of peace.**  
The financial burdens we put on ourselves,  
**we confess to you, O God of peace.**

The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another,  
**we confess to you, O God of peace.**  
The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy,  
**we confess to you, O God of peace.**  
Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year,  
your peace is always there for us.  
**Instill within us your peace, O God.**  
When we feel overwhelmed,  
**instill within us your peace, O God.**  
When we are filled with worry,  
**instill within us your peace, O God.**  
When we become irritable,  
**instill within us your peace, O God.**  
When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,  
help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.  
**Instill within us your peace, O God.**  
Instill within us your peace, O God.  
Instill within us your peace  
and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.  
Help us to be more peaceful  
so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others. **Amen.**

### Time for Silent Confession

#### Assurance of Pardon

*Bonnie Mecaughey*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

—Zephaniah 3:14-18, NRSV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*  
**All: Thanks be to God!**

#### Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*



<sup>6</sup>For every trampling boot of battle and the bloodied garments of war will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup> In the same region, shepherds were staying out in the fields and keeping watch at night over their flock. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be the sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup> Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to people he favors!

**Sermon**

*"O Come, Thou Dayspring"*  
Rev. Tim Latham



**Hymn 133**

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

**Responding**

***We respond to God's Word***



**Profession of Faith** (*Nicene Creed*)

**We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.**

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

#### Commissioning

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*



Hymn 128

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*



Benediction & Blessing



Postlude