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## COF Worship, November 29, 2020, 10:30 am

### First Sunday of Advent-- Hope

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place:

**P: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth. (A candle is lit)**

#### Opening Prayer

L: Please pray with me: Gracious and loving God, at this beginning of Advent, as we await the coming of Jesus as a child and as a savior, may we continually prepare ourselves.

May we prepare by remembering that we are saved by your grace, even though we have fallen short;

**We remember as we wait with hope**

May we prepare by continuing to help those in need: the hungry, the sick, the lonely, those who live with injustice; **We help others as we wait with hope.**

May we prepare by loving our neighbors, especially the ones who are so hard to love; **we love others as we wait with hope.**

**(Moment of silence)**

O God, Hear us as we pray together the prayer that Christ taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p.385-6). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

#### **Song:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (#2)*

*Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free.*

*From our sins and fears release us, let us find our rest in thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;*

*Dear desire of every nation, joy of every loving heart.*

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.*

*Born to live in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thy own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;*

*By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

## Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 167). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

**Scripture Mark 13:24-37** <sup>24</sup>“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup>or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## Hymn *Down to Earth, as a Dove*

*Down to earth, as a dove, came to light holy love, Jesus Christ from above  
Bringing great salvation, meant for every nation,  
Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring,  
Christ is here, ever near, Gloria in excelsis.*

*This is love, come to light, now is fear put to flight, God defeats darkest night  
Giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows.  
Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring  
Christ is here, ever near, Gloria in excelsis.*

*Christ the Lord comes to feed, hungry people in need, in the house there is bread  
Jesus in a stable, in the church a table  
Let us sing, sing, sing, dance and spring, spring, spring,  
Christ is here, ever near, Gloria in excelsis.*

*Repeat verse 1*

**Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:1-9** Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: <sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and

knowledge of every kind—<sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Sermon** *Hope in a Time of Uncertainty*

Where do you find uncertainty in these scriptures passages? Where do you find hope?  
Where is there uncertainty in your life today? Where is there hope in your life today?  
How do the scriptures help you think about hope in uncertain times?

### **Affirmation of Faith** *From The Confession of 1967*

**God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of [people's lives]: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes [people's] natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. It is the will of God that [God's] purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ and all evil be banished from [God's] creation.**

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists [God's] will and disrupts [God's] creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in [all people] and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.**

### **Special Music**

#### **Offering Prayer** *Thank you to all who continue to give!*

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, each one of us with our whole heart, and also with the whole heart of this community of faith. For the gifts you have given to us we will glorify your name forever. Accept our offering today, of heart, of love, of time, talents and financial resources and lead us to use them with care and boldness, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

### **Celebration of Holy Communion**

#### **Sharing of Joys and Concerns**

#### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)**  
**The whole world is full of God's glory (3x)**  
**Holy is the Lord!**

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 387). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

**Words of Institution**  
**Communion of the People**  
**Prayer After Communion**

**Song: People Look East (#12)**

*People look east the time is near of the crowning of the year  
 Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table  
 People look east and sing today, love the guest is on the way.*

*Birds though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled  
 Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has chosen  
 People look east and sing today, love the bird is on the way.*

*Stars keep the watch when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim  
 Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as the moon and stars together.  
 People look east and sing today, love the star is on the way.*

*Angels announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth  
 Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
 People look east and sing today, love the Lord is on the way.*

**Charge and Benediction**