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COF Worship, December 6, 2020, 10:30 am Second Sunday of Advent—Peace Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: We light candles today as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come . . .

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

P: The calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 163-4). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray: **O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the hope and longing you instill in us through the promise of our baptism— a voice crying out in the wilderness, a messenger to prepare the way, the day of redemption drawing near. By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, keep us awake and make us ready for the coming of your glorious realm of righteousness, justice, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (moment of silence)** Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 166). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

O God, Hear us now 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.**

Song: *Canticle of the Turning*

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings at the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight and my weakness you did not spurn.
So from east to west shall my name be blest, can the world be about to turn?

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring, let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
 Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
 The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
 There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast;
 God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp,
 This saving word, that our forebears heard is the promise that holds us bound,
 Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

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 Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

Hymn Prepare the Way (13)

Prepare the way O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
 Let every hill and valley a level way appear!
 Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in song and story.
 O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Christ brings God's rule, O Zion he comes from heav'n above.
 His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.
 Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy resounding.
 O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your savior's rule embrace.

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
 All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
 O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Scripture Mark 1:1-8 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Sermon *Peace in a Time of Uncertainty*

Affirmation of Faith From *The Scots Confession, 1560*

When the fullness of time came God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

Special Music

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

We are called to be a living body, seeking God's will in the world. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.
 Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 170). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Let us pray: 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: *I've Got Peace Like a River (368)*

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river

I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,

I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul;

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,

I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in my soul;

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,

I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

Charge and Benediction