

Toll free conference call number (844) 855-4444, access code 654132#

Worship will also be connected through Facebook Live

Worship



Sunday, December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

11:15 am

+Stand as you are able

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Centering Music

+Call to Worship

Leader: Let us make a place for God in the wilderness of our hearts.

People: Let us make a way for him in the desert of our emotions.

Leader: Let us make room for him in the crowdedness of the season.

People: Let us worship him now with praise and singing.

+Hymn *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night #20*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison followed by silent confession)

I am not ready, O Lord, for the coming of Christ in my life. There is much I am not prepared to surrender. I do not want to give up home or family or friends to follow him. I cherish my possessions, and do not choose to share them with others. I like being my own master, even though I do not manage it very well. It would be a great favor to me if you would lead me out of my selfishness and into your love. For yours really is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Assurance of Pardon

Response of Praise

O come let us adore him;

O come let us adore him;

O come let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: As God has forgiven us to draw us back into his love, let us live as people who live in this grace, sharing the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Anthem

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of the prophets in the wilderness of Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare the hearts of people for the coming of your Son. May we hear, repent and be ready to welcome anew the Lord Jesus.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 11:1-5

- 1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow[a] out of his roots.
- 2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Hymn Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #31

Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell

you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Sermon *Wild yet Wonderful* Rev. Robert Wood

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith *The Apostle's Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Loving God, from your hand we receive those things we need, gift on gift, all free. We thank you for all you supply. Our gifts we humbly offer in response. Amen.

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

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 our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Celebration of Communion

Taking the Word into the World

+Hymn *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23

+Charge and Benediction

COMMUNITY OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 4, 2022

Pastor:

Rev. Sharon Carter
865-385-5003

Choir Director:

Jie Fang Goh

Admin Assistant:

Stephanie Class

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Scriptures for Sunday, December 11

Isaiah 35:1–10
Psalm 146:5–10 or
Luke 1:46–55
James 5:7–10
Matthew 11:2–11

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Murphy
Ruth Roeber
The McDermott family
Johanna Willis
The Kleier family
Jean Jennings' family
Emilee Walden
Kelly Montana
Lynda Jaeger
Kittie Dupps
Ron Carlin
Ella Grace Marksberry

Worship Services

Join us for in person services at our new location at 710 Western Reserve Rd., Crescent Springs, KY. You can also worship with us online via Facebook Live, or by joining the conference call. Worship services begin at 11:15 am.

Christmas Worship Services

COF will not be meeting for worship on Sunday, December 25. You're welcome to worship with Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church or join the Zoom worship that will be organized by the Synod.

Advent Giving Opportunities

As they are every year, our Advent giving opportunities are important in the life of the church, and in the lives of those in need. These include the PCUSA Christmas Joy offering, Buckhorn, the Giving Tree, and Be Concerned. Your Mission team suggests that we concentrate our giving on these known causes and non-profit organizations, with which we have had strong ties for many years. We invite you to contribute to one, two, three, or all of these causes.

They are: the Christmas Joy offering (one of the 4 "special" annual offerings to the PCUSA); Buckhorn, the children's home with locations in Kentucky and Ohio (contact Bill Lindsay and/or Jack Kleier about gift cards needed, cash, or checks.); the Giving Tree, which provided gifts to disadvantaged children in the Ludlow community (contact Jean Jennings about gift needs); and BeConcerned, a food bank, serving Covington and Kenton County. We also hope that you won't forget Nicaragua, helping our mission partner, CEPAD, to provide continuing relief to rural communities, ravaged by the hurricanes, droughts, and Covid.

Donate by sending your checks, with the selected cause(s) on the memo line to the church at P.O. Box 121038, Covington, KY 41012-1038. Or, placing donations in the offering plate. You can also give online by Control-clicking on the "Give Now" button located on the main COF webpage or Facebook page. When donating online, choose the "Other" giving category, and indicate which of the cause(s) you've selected, or all of them, in a note.

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Supporting the Work of the Presbytery and the Denomination with Per Capita

Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of us, as members of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Presbytery, as well as the Synod and General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers. It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives. It has supported our ministries at COF through grants to CLASP and for equipment purchases for our virtual church services. Please prayerfully consider donating the \$33 per capital apportionment set by the Presbytery, for each church member.