

Penns Valley Charge U.M.C. Worship Service for Sunday, December 2, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info (*not in recorded services)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.

L: Something new was about to happen.

P: God would visit God's people in a new way!

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

L: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

P: We light this candle in hope. *(Light the first candle.)*

We light this candle for peace. *(Light the second candle.)*

L: In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace.

P: Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming. May the light of peace show the way. Amen.

OPENING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #211 v1-4 WITH ANTIPHONS Insert

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE A Messenger Sent From God

JOYS AND CONCERNS - PASTORAL PRAYER (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE Mark 1:1-8 Isaiah 40:1-11

MESSAGE The End of the World As We Know It

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

- CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

**We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray.

**Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:...*

*... In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

- THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing ...*

*... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...*

*...as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...*

*...all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

OPENING HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #211 v 5-7 WITH ANTIPHONS Insert

COMMISSION & BLESSING

Next week's message: *Homecoming*

PASTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Theresa M. Heiser; theiser@susumc.org; 814-883-9510; PO Box 211, Centre Hall 16828

BIBLE STUDY: Clean Up Crew Read Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-18

- Both passages talk about preparing a highway in the desert, about valleys being made low and uneven ground being made smooth. What is this imagery trying to convey?
- What was the situation of Isaiah's first hearers? [They were in exile. They felt abandoned by God. They were in a foreign land that felt uncaring, and many were persecuted and suffering.] How has 2020 felt somewhat similar to being in exile?
- Isaiah's first hearers were longing for an end to exile, for justice to be done, and for a return home. But this returning home could not look like life as it was before. (They were in exile because there were injustices and a lack of obedience to God.) How is home both a place of comfort and a place of challenge? How does the church function as both a place of comfort and a place of challenge? How is the season of Advent a calling to a better version of home?
- What do we learn about God from these passages?
- What are we called to do in from these passages?
- What practices can we take on this week to help prepare ourselves and others to experience the comfort and challenge of God's grace?

Faithful God, we stand in awe of your compassion toward us. When we have been faithless, you have been faithful. This has been true throughout the generations, yet your steadfast love continues to pursue us and draw us closer into your love. May we be empowered as witness of your compassion, forgiveness, and love that others might see you in us. Amen.