



In him was **LIFE,**
and the life was the light of all.
John 1:4

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Calvary Presbyterian Church is a welcoming people of faith and hope in Christ Jesus, inspired by God's word and led by the Holy Spirit. We serve God, each other, our community, and the world, through worship, study, teaching, fellowship and outreach; demonstrating God's love, justice, compassion and grace.

Now is a good time to turn off our cell phones and listen for God's call.

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it down for others to sign.

November 29, 2009

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

PRELUDE

Pat Bofird

PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE WORD

SONGS OF PRAISE

"Christmas Is Coming"

SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE

Deacon Ama Mundi

One: Christ shall come. God's gift to the world.

All: The desperate shall find hope.

One: The persecuted shall find peace.

All: The lonely shall find love.

One: The dejected shall find joy.

All: We wait, we watch, we wonder! Come, Lord!

INTROIT

"Gloria In Excelsis"

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liturgist

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A voice cries out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Every gully shall be filled up; every mountain shall be leveled.

One: The crooked place shall be straightened, and the rough road shall be smoothed.

All: And all people shall see the salvation of our God!

INVOCATION

One: O Lord, in ages past we looked for you in comets, eclipses, and shooting stars.

All: We heard you in howling winds. We felt you in the quaking mountains.

One: You will not be seen in the glitter of a shopping mall but in the austerity of a homeless shelter.

All: We will not hear you in the pitch of a commercial but in the whimper of a child.

One: You will not be clothed in the comforts of the privileged but in the needs of the neglected.

All: You are among us.

One: Open our eyes to witness the appearance of the angels.

All: Open our ears to hear testimony of the shepherds.

One: Open our hearts to shout the good news that you are with us!

*HYMN #8

"Lift Up Your Heads"

* Please stand if you are able

ADVENT PRAYER

One: Father, your Word creates life which will never end, hope which will endure all things, and joy which shines in every shadow.

All: Lord Jesus, in you, we hear the good news of sins forgiven.

In you, we find our heart's true home.

In your life and work, we see the mission to which you have called us.

One: Spirit of the Father and the Son, with you, we walk the pathways of peace.

With you, we can fill in the potholes of poverty. With you, we taste God's grace and love.

**All: As you have covered us with your grace,
now send us out to share the message of hope and peace.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION IN SONG, (SUNG BY ALL) (#2152)

Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true;

Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like you.

You are the potter, I am the clay;

mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, Oh God, make it ever true;

Change my heart, Oh God, may I be like you.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Like a warm shawl, God drapes tender mercy around our souls; like the moon on a winter night, God's Light breaks through our shadows, showing us the path to life.

All: On the street of peace, the avenue of hope, the path of grace, the road to service - hand in hand, we walk the ways of our God. Amen.

"ADVENT SONG" #2090 IN SING THE FAITH, (VERSE 2)

***Light the Advent candle, two: think of humble shepherds, who
filled with wonder at the sight, of the child of Christmas night.***

***Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light***

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST AND SECOND ADVENT CANDLES

Whittie Family

Reader 1: Today we light two candles-

the first Candle is called HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true.

Reader 2: The second Candle is called PEACE, God's gentle loving peace for our lives.

Reader 3: We seek God's peace in this time of stress.

Reader 4: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

[The first and second Advent Candles are lit (two purple candles).]

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (ALL SING)

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord; open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you; I want to see you. (2x)

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Malachi 3:1-3

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GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

Page 60

ANTHEM

"African Noel"

Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Sherise Parker-Alofs

SERMON

Sent By God? Who Me?

Rev. Bruce Calkins

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN #13

"Prepare the Way"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (#2200)

Prayers of Praise and Intercession are Offered from the Congregation.

(Please indicate if you wish to use the microphone when you pray.)

To each prayer, we will respond.

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

OUR GIFTS OF THANKSGIVING

*"Give Thanks" (#2036 in Sing the Faith)

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.

And now, let the weak say, "I am strong."

Let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (ADAPTED FROM A PRAYER BY THOM SHUMAN, 2009)

One: As we wait to celebrate the holy birth, may God be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: As we wait for the arrival of the Christ child, let us lift our hearts.

All: We lift them to the God who comes to us in every time and every place.

One: As we trust the One who comes to us, let us give thanks to the God of Advent.

All: Joy is the gift of our hearts, praise is the song on our lips.

One: Glory and thanksgiving are the gifts we offer to you, Approaching God.

On the very first day of eternity, you began to create all that is true and just,
all that is beautiful and blameless

Our ancestors danced in Eden's fields, hearing the music of the your grace.

But they turned away from you, preferring to stumble over the rough ways of sin,
seeking the cold company of death.

You persisted in your hopes for us, calling to us through the mouths of holy prophets,
but we continued to chase after pain and power.

Then you sent John, the messenger of righteousness,

proclaiming the coming of the One who brings your kingdom of justice and peace.

So, we join our voices with our sisters and brothers of every time,
of every place to glorify your name, saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God,
All creation delights in your coming.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes in joy and hope.
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Into the midst of the status quo and events beyond our control,
you sent Jesus Christ to place our feet on the kingdom's street called Peace;
into the shadows of our lives, caused by sin and defiance, he carries the light of your grace;
taking the brokenness of our world, he reshapes us into your people;
into that shadow of dread called death, he strides in obedience and faith,
so that we might be brought to life.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
we also remember his life, death and resurrection.

**All: We celebrate Christ's birth with joy;
we remember Christ's death and resurrection with hope;**

One: Come to us now, God of Advent, pouring out your Spirit upon the gifts of the bread
and the cup, transforming them into sacramental grace.
Through these simple gifts, transform us from ordinary people into citizens of your
kingdom,
our arms and hearts wide open to all.
Fill us with the bread of heaven, so we might feed the hungriest of your children;
pour the cup of grace into us, so we might be compassionate people with a passion for
justice.
And when we are gathered around your Table in glory,
we will sing our thanksgiving through all eternity.

**All: ...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 us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

SERVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

CLOSING PRAYER

***HYMN #23** "Angels We Have Heard On High"

***BENEDICTION**

One: Now it is our time to proclaim the coming Kingdom.
Go out into this new week, ready to lower the obstacles and fill up the chasms,
to smooth the rough trails and straighten the crooked paths,
so that all humanity will see the salvation of God.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (ALL SING)**

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King! [3x]
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

POSTLUDE