

Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian USA)
Second Sunday of Advent ~ 4 December 2022 ~ Order for Worship

Preparation for Worship:
"Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."
~Albert Einstein

Prelude

Offertoire (Sur des Noël's)

Léon Boëllmann

Choral Introit

This Is the Day

Call to Worship:

Leader: A messenger from God is coming.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: A new day of mercy is dawning.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Leader: A voice is crying in the wilderness.

People: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Litany for Advent:

O Root of Jesse, rising as a sign for all peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent, and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, Scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set the prisoners free.

Come, Lord Jesus.

God of all generations, though signs and seasons change, your promise is faithful and your word will never pass away. Give us courage and strength as we watch and wait for Jesus Christ, our redeemer, who is coming in glory to reign.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Leader: On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of peace. "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid..."

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

Prayer of Adoration

God our Savior, your word shakes the wilderness, washes away evil, and causes all flesh to rejoice. Make us ready to greet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verses 1 – 4

1) *O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

[REFRAIN] Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2) *O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go. [REFRAIN]*

3) *O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. [REFRAIN]*

4) *O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. [REFRAIN]*

Call to Prayer

There is a voice crying out in the wilderness of sin. God is calling to us with love. Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's saving grace.

Prayer of Confession

We confess, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice, and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways. You call us to resist oppression, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven, set free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Silent prayers]

Words of Assurance

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain made low, and the crooked made straight, and the rough made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. This is the good news we are waiting for: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

*Response: Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*The Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

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

Time with the Children

All children from preschool through second grade are invited to the front steps for the children's sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Speak to us this day, O Lord. Visit us with your wisdom, overshadow us with your Spirit, and let it be with us according to your Word: Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Psalter: Hymn 149

All Hail to God's Anointed

Psalm 72

1) All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son! All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun! You come to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression and rule in equity.

2) You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong, to help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong; To give them songs for singing, their darkness turn to light, whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in our sight.

3) You shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth; love, joy, and hope like flowers spring in your path to birth. Before you on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go, and righteousness like fountains from hill to valley flow.

4) All rulers bow before you, and gold and incense bring. All nations shall adore you; your praise all people sing. To you shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend. Your rule is still increasing; your rule is without end.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

Choral Response

Threefold Amen

Sermon

"A Voice from the Margins"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

Offering and Choral Anthem

Awaken and Prepare Us, O Lord

Mark Hayes

*Response: The Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Sanctus*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Sung by choir and congregation

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of 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, hosanna in the highest.***Words of Institution****Communion Music***Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming*

Ben & Deb Carter

The People Commune**Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.

Welcome and Next Steps***Hymn 96***On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry*

- 1) *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings!*
- 2) *Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*
- 3) *We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward:
Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.*
- 4) *Stretch out your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.*

Charge and Benediction**Choral Response***Sevenfold Amen***Postlude***Herr Jesu Christ, Dich Zuch Uns Wend*

J.S. Bach

Please feel free to exit during the postlude, mindful of those who wish to remain and listen.