

Holly Presbyterian Church
Second Sunday of Advent-PEACE
December 5, 2021



Welcome We welcome all visitors, whether this is your first time with us, or you've been here often.

Greeting and Pennies from Heaven - A voluntary small change offering for new building projects. Basket is on the table by the AV desk.

Announcements At this time there will be a moment for sharing announcements.

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Behind the corridors of space, before the world began, beyond all understanding...
God.

Fathering time, mothering creation, parenting all people...
God.

Waiting for the right moment, preparing the right way, intending the right woman...
God.

We believe in one God,
Maker and mover of heaven and earth.

Hymn 13 "Prepare the Way"

(While still in the midst of the pandemic, we will be listening only and not singing. However, follow the words along with the music if you are so moved.)

***Prayer of Confession**

When we have refused your message, ignored your messenger,
Lord, have mercy.

When we have built walls instead of preparing the way for you,
Christ, have mercy.

When we have made your paths crooked, put stumbling blocks in front of others,
Lord, have mercy. Grant us peace

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

We love because God first loved us. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Come as a Child

(We set apart this time specifically for children as we reflect upon the words of scripture for the day. There is no need to move from where you are, unless you find it helpful to come closer. Adults, too, are invited to listen as a child might and to participate.)

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Peace*

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

We light this candle in hope. *(The first candle is lit.)*

We light this candle for peace. *(The second candle is lit.)*

This is the season of holy waiting. We wait for the One whose word can set captives free. We watch for the day when all who mourn will know gladness and praise. We wait while the dawning light appears on the horizon.

Come let us walk in the light of God!

First Reading Luke 1:68-79

Pew Bible (NT) Pg. 54

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Reading** Luke 3:1-6

Pew Bible (NT) Pg. 56

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev. Brooke Pickrell

Hymn 5 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

(While still in the midst of the pandemic, we will be listening only and not singing. However, follow the words along with the music if you are so moved.)

Prayers of the People

Living God, You call us to prepare for Christ's coming. May the prayers we offer this morning help to make your paths a little straighter and the rough ways a little smoother. We pray for the Church, for this congregation here, for all who minister to one another in the name of Christ. May the Peace of Christ bless us. May the Love of Christ work through us. May the Light of Christ shine in the darkest places. We pray for our community, our country, and our world.

Bless with tenderness those we know who are tired. Bless with wisdom, purpose, and character those who have responsibilities as leaders, teachers, coaches, and mentors.

We pray for those in need:
those who struggle for direction;
those who are sick;
those who are ground down by worries and troubles.
And in the silence, we name them before you:

SILENCE

We pray for ourselves,
as we prepare in thoughtfulness for the coming of Jesus,
that we might be honest with ourselves and open to your grace.

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.

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*Invitation to the Offering

*Prayer of Dedication

*Charge

*Blessing

Postlude (Working together to help maintain safety during this time of Covid, please exit the sanctuary quietly during the Postlude.)

- The Call to Worship is from Wild Goose Worship Group, *Cloth for the Cradle: Worship Resources and Readings for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany* (Glasgow, Scotland: Wild Goose Resource Group, 1997).
- The reflection on the Advent wreath is from the Office of Theology and Worship of the PC(USA).
- The Prayers of the People are adapted from resources provided by The Church of Scotland.

Serving in the celebration of worship this week:

A/V Setup: **Brian Parker**

Sound/Camcorder Operator: **Jim Lyles**

From the Care Team

Prayers of Comfort –

- Prayers of comfort for the family of Betty Striggow (Penny Schettling’s mother).

Prayers of Joy –

We are overjoyed that **Rev. Brooke** is able to be here in person.

Mandie Banks’ grandma is doing well and came home from the hospital after her surgery to remove bile duct stones.

Other Prayer Concerns -

- For those who are suffering from natural and man-made disasters.
- For all those sickened and threatened by the COVID-19 virus here in the United States and around the world.
- For healing, strength, comfort and peace for: **Chris Rigdard** (Pastor Brooke’s husband) who has COVID; **Frank Kasperek** (Jan Bradshaw’s brother in law) who contracted COVID several weeks ago; **Barb Brown** (testing concerning nodules on her lungs); **Steve in FL** (Friend of Cathy & Bob Killewald) who has stage 4 bladder cancer; **Debbie Mikolowski** (Penny Schettling's sister), who is battling cancer and having a difficult time; **George Dzahristos** (a friend of Randy Cook’s) who has suffered an aneurysm in his brain and has a long recovery; **Mary Renico** who continues with wound treatment; **Melinda** (Elizabeth Kici’s daughter), who was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment; **Jim Pelton**, who has Lewy Body Dementia and in decline; **Diana** (friend of Cathie Killewald) who is facing health issues with her lungs and continues with medical tests; **Mandie Banks** who has not been feeling well and is going through medication adjustments for Lupus; **Mandie’s mom, Laura**, who is recovering from back surgery on November 16; **Jim Killewald** (Bob & Cathie’s son) who has a lot of pain; ongoing prayers for **Hadleigh Banks, Keaton Banks** who still is having kidney issues and will be on medication for six months; **Fran Olson and Terry & Julie Parish**.
- For those serving, or who have served, in our military.
- For our country, its leaders and for world peace in a troubled time;
- For all the churches in our Presbytery that are in transition.
- And for our church during these difficult times.

Finance Team

Weekly Summary	Average budgeted needs	Income received	Attendance
Nov 28th	\$2,268.01	\$2,140.00	20