First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

11:00 A.M.
Sunday, December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

100 E. Adams Ave.  Kirkwood, MO 63122  (314) 965-0326  www.kirkwoodpres.org
Welcome and Announcements

Organ Prelude

“Veni Emmanuel” Flor Peeters

We Address Ourselves to God

Call to Worship
Leader: A voice cries in the wilderness, and we find ourselves drawn to the message.
People: God invades the commonplace, and we cannot evade the changes God brings.
Leader: On every hand our values are challenged as attention is drawn to the lowly and weak.
ALL: We come to proclaim the worth of God, and to claim the worth God invests in us.

Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn No. 82

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (The people joining)
Grant us the courage, O God, to admit to you that which we try to hide from ourselves. You have made us rich and we use your goodness as an excuse for false pride. You have built up and we have torn down. You have created and we have destroyed. We call on you for mercy here and now. Remove the distortions from our vision and the lethargy from our service. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Silent Confessions

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Confession

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” Hymn No. 105

The Passing of the Peace
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Let us share that peace with one another.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

We Hear God’s Word

First Reading
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

“When God Restored Our Common Life” Hymn No. 74
Second Reading     John 1:19-28     Pew Bible, N.T., pg. 92

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon   “The Gift of Transition”     The Rev. Dr. Craig Howard

We Respond to God’s Word

Hymn    “Arise, Your Light Has Come”     Hymn No. 744

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offertory Sentences

Offertory Anthem   “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”    arr. K. Lee Scott

    Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
    The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
    The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near; go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.
    The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.
    The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
    Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before Him their diadems of gold.
    Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Son so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere.
    With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption that sets Your people free. Rejoice!

Prayer of Dedication

We Depart to Serve the Lord

Hymn    “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”    Hymn No. 88

Benediction

Organ Postlude   “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”    John Behnke

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Worship Leaders: The Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Presbytery Leader
The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor
Music Ministry: Chancel Octet; Bill Stein, Director of Music Ministries; Travis Evans, Music Associate

Thank you for worshiping with us.
PLEASE NOTE: The days to drop off food for KirkCare and school supplies and food for the Kirkwood School District are now Tuesday and Thursday (no longer Monday and Wednesday) from 9am-12pm.

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If you would like to be on our email list to receive information on the life of the congregation, please email Paula at paulab@kirkwoodpres.org

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
- **Zoom Series**: Sundays, December 13 and 20, at 9:30am, Betsy Solomon of the Shepherd’s Center, continues her series about artwork of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. This week the topic is *The Nativity Story in Painting.*
- **Spiritual Formation Class on Zoom**: The group meets at 9:30am on Zoom on the Second Sunday of each month. If you'd like to join in, contact Tom Edelstein at tedelstein@att.net.
- **The Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study Group** meets at 11am on Saturday mornings. Contact Tim Morrison at timothy.lee.morrison@gmail.com to be added to the Zoom invitation list.
- **Advent Bible Study on Zoom, Wednesday, December 16 at 10:00a.m.**: Join us for this Advent Bible study of the birth narratives of Jesus found in Matthew and Luke. If you would like to receive the Zoom invite for this study, please let Karen know at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

We will be offering additional prayer time in the sanctuary for those who would like to spend some time in our beautifully decorated worship space. During these times, the recording from last year’s Choir Christmas Concert will be playing as well. Look for the Sign Up Genius email the week prior to sign up. Reservations are required!

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KIRKWOOD
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 at 12:15PM
FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
Pursuant to the Form of Government G-1.0501, the Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation following the 11:00am. Worship Service on Sunday December 13, 2020 at 12:15pm, to act on 1) the election of new church officers and 2) approve the 2021 Terms of Call for The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor. This will be a virtual meeting held on Zoom. Please check your email for instructions to access the meeting.

By Order of the Session
Lisa K. Ward
Clerk of Session
Sunday, 12/13
Third Sunday in Advent
9:30am  Zoom Adult Ed: Betsy Solomon
9:30am  Spiritual Formation - Zoom
11:00am Live-Streamed Worship Service
12:15pm Congregational Meeting

Monday, 12/14
8:00am  Preschool
11:30am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, 12/15
9:00am  Book Group - Zoom
7:30pm  Session Meeting - Zoom

Wednesday, 12/16
8:00am  Preschool
10:00am Advent Bible Study - Zoom
1:30pm  Book Group - Zoom
5:30pm  Midweek Advent Vespers Service - Live Streamed
7:00pm  Bell Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room
7:00 pm Mary’s Circle - Chapel
7:00pm  Sr. High Study Time - Fellowship Hall
7:15pm  Lucy’s Circle - Offsite

Thursday, 12/17
10:00am Prayer Time - Sanctuary (reservations required)
7:00 pm Chancel Octet Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:00pm Sr. High Study Time - Fellowship hall

Friday, 12/18
8:00am  Preschool

Saturday, 12/19
10:00am Prayer Time - Sanctuary (reservations required)
11:00am Men’s Bible Study - Zoom

Sunday, 12/20
Fourth Sunday in Advent
9:30am  Zoom Adult Ed: Betsy Solomon
11:00am Live-Streamed Worship Service
7:00pm Sr. High Study Time - Fellowship Hall
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is-rael’s strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a- lone;

dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.
by thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-ri-ous throne.

With its opening “Come,” this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin adventus = “coming”). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL
B.7.B.7.D
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)
103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace

오소서

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.
2 Come now, O God of love; make us one body.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.
4 Come, hope of unity; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.
When God Restored Our Common Life
(Psalm 126)

1. When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberation,
at first it seemed a passing dream, a fantasy;
we went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil;
with laughing hearts we carry home the pressed.

2. We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong.
May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest.
May those who over us, for we had wept so long;
and all who suffer wrong; may seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

3. Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed.
We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong;
may seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.

Text: Ruth Duck, 1961

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!

show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.
proclaim the captives' liberty, good tidings to the poor.
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894

FESTAL SONG
Smt
(this tune in a lower key, 815)
1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile all things mightily: to us the path of knowledge bring. 

2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people here until the Son of God appear. 

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy people show; and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! save and give them victory o'er the grave. 

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.