



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2A NORTH HANOVER STREET, CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013
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ORDER FOR WORSHIP
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 6, 2020

(**BOLD** indicates Read Together)

GATHERING

PRELUDES

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come – Zachau

What Child Is This – arr. Wolaver

Carol Ziegler, piano

Hark the Herald Angels Sing – arr. Winkler

Jennie Ziegler, oboe; Carol Ziegler, piano

GREETING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Forest Green – Gawthrop

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's peace.

**Jesus Christ, born the Prince of Peace,
calls our community to justice
and leads us in the way of peace.**

We call one another to honesty and humility
and respond to each other with abundant grace and forgiveness.

Our community values relationships.

**We live in harmony with one another even when we disagree,
and strive to glorify God in everything we do.**

Our community longs for unity.

We work together with other churches and organizations,
and live out God's reconciling love for all the world to see.

Together, we are a sign of God's peace in the world. (The candles are lit.)

Let us pray:

**God of surprising grace, when we least expect it you bring fresh new life;
and where we feel that all is lost, you bring redemption.
Give us courage as we share all you have done, all you are doing,
and all you will accomplish through Jesus Christ. AMEN**

HYMN – “Comfort, Comfort You My People”

**Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression’s load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.**

**For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for the God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down in greeting.**

**Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You call us to repent, but we turn away from you.
You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you
when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**
(silent confession . . .)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE TO PARDON – “Gloria Patri”

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN, AMEN.**

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit
prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word,
so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

FIRST LESSON – Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Joys of Advent”
Jennie Ziegler, oboe

Ron Richcreek

SECOND LESSON – Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.

⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem
were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.

⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

(The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**)

SERMON – Rev. Lorenz

HYMN – “Soon and Very Soon”

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the King!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!

No more crying there—we are going to see the King!

No more crying there—we are going to see the King!

No more crying there—we are going to see the King!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!

No more dying there—we are going to see the King!

No more dying there—we are going to see the King!

No more dying there—we are going to see the King!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We’re going to see the King!

(Repeat verse 1)

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. AMEN.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

GIVING THANKS

OFFERING OURSELVES & DEDICATING OUR 2021 GIVING COMMITMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you –
ourselves, our time, and our possessions,
that through us your grace and favor
may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. AMEN**

SENDING

HYMN – “Prepare the Way”

**Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.**

**Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came In God's most holy name.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING RESPONSE – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*refrain*)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

POSTLUDE *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* – Lasky



Today's Special Music was composed for Jennie to thank her
for sharing her musical talents with our church.

Today is “Dedication Sunday” – an opportunity to pledge our commitment of time, talent, and treasure for 2021. You may place your commitment card in the offering plate as you exit, or mail it to the church office (2A N. Hanover St., Carlisle PA 17013).

SERVING TODAY:

Reader: David Killian

Ushers: Barb Allen; Ryan Crim; Rick Line; Fred Seltzer

Vocalist: Kari Kornish

Camera: Joe Shane

Recorder: Ray Thomas

THIS WEEK, IN OUR PRAYERS:

* **for the church:** Lend-A-Hand ministry

* **for the congregation (at random):** Marita Neslund; Kathy Yeager

THIS WEEK, IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 7 PM: Advent Bible Study (by Zoom)

NEXT SUNDAY Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

– 10:45 AM: Worship; Special Music by Lynda Mann, Deb Ryerson & Deb Richcreek

NOTE: Sunday morning worship continues to be recorded and posted on the church website, church Facebook page, and YouTube (“Sunday on the Square”) for the convenience of those who cannot yet worship in-person.

To reserve a seat, please call 717-243-4612 on Wednesdays, beginning at 10 AM.

“VIRTUAL” POINSETTIA SALE – CONTINUES. In lieu of purchasing live poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary this year, you are invited to support our local Salvation Army by donating \$10 per “virtual” poinsettia. You may complete a form (available in Fellowship Hall) and place it in the red envelope provided; or simply send your payment to the church office along with your payment. Please make your check payable to **“First Presbyterian Church”** (add “poinsettias” on the memo line) to **2A N. Hanover St., Carlisle, PA 17013**. Thank you from the Deacons and Elders!

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CARLISLE TRUCK STOP MINISTRY by doing either or both of the following:

1) bake cookies (please wear a mask & gloves while baking) and drop them off at the church on Sat., Dec 12 or Sun, Dec. 13; and/or 2) make a monetary contribution to be used by the Deacons to purchase cookies (make your check to **DEACONS**, with “Cookies” on the memo line). Any amount helps! The Deacons will package the cookies on the 13th and deliver them on the 14th. **THANK YOU!**