



Westminster Presbyterian Church

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent
Advent Hope

art: *The Magnificat*
woodblock print by Sister Mary Grace Thul

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. David Lanz

WELCOME

PREPARATION MUSIC "I Saw the Path of Angels" arr. David Lanz

INTROIT "There Is a Longing" #141(*Lift Up Your Hearts*)
***There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.***

***For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near, hear our prayer, O God.*** Refrain

***For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near, hear our prayer, O God.*** Refrain

***For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near, hear our prayer, O God.*** Refrain

***Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait: be near, hear our prayer, O God.*** Refrain

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING

SCRIPTURE Psalm 85:8-10

The Psalmist says:

**Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE... a moment of quiet reflection

PRAYER

Light of the world, we long for peace in our lives and in our world. We want broken relationships to heal. We want to see our world become a more peaceful and just home for all its people. We want to be at peace within ourselves. Show us how to nurture the seeds of peace, in our hearts, relationships, and communities. Lead us to opportunities to join with others in the holy work of peacemaking. Shine the light of your peace on us and on our world, we pray, as we celebrate the birth of your Child of peace. Amen.

*HYMN

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

#9(*Hymnal*)

***O come, o come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind:
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

PRAYER

(adapted from a prayer written by Joanna Harader, spaciousfaith.com)

Holy God of peace, we seek your peace in this season's darkening days.

We seek a calm within, yes.

We also pray for resolution of conflicts between people and nations.

We pray for the healing of broken relationships and divided communities.

But more deeply, we seek your *shalom* –

**the deep and abiding peace, the well-being and flourishing
that will come only through the justice of your kingdom.**

We need to hear your word and promise of peace once again.

Speak to us today, and help us to listen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35

ANTHEM

"Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

arr. Howard Helvey

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

"Making Peace with Advent Time"

Pastor Janet

HYMN "Born in the Night, Mary's Child" #30 (Hymnal)

***Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;
Coming in need, Mary's Child, Born in a borrowed room.***

***Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.***

***Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
Yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.***

***Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.***

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

*HYMN "The Desert Shall Rejoice" #18 (Hymnal)

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with praise and singing.***

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
For the ears of the deaf shall hear
and the blind, their eyes be opened.***

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
For the tongue of the mute shall sing
and the lame will dance with gladness.***

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
For the ground will become a pool and the dry land springs of water.***

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
As the ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion.***

***The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose.
Unto Zion we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.***

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE "Dona Nobis Pacem"

***Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Grant us peace, grant us peace.***

***Grant us peace on earth, grant us peace.
Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.***

POSTLUDE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Phillip Keveren

