

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Second Sunday in Advent**

Dec. 10, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Lo, How a Rose* - Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Adoration* - Arr. by Marvin Gaspard

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Litany for the Second Sunday in Advent

Advent Song#103: *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* vs. 1

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

**You fashion righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.**

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames.

Teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound,

until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.

Candle Carol #85: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* vs. 2

Call to Worship

Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out,

“Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”

to seek God in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,

“The day of the Lord is coming,”

to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.
In the wilderness, let us listen only for God's voice.

Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day:

Great God, in these times between your birth and your coming, we hear the words of John the Baptist for us today. In baptizing and receiving confessions, John pointed beyond himself to Christ. Help us to embody the good news that John proclaimed in our words and in our work, that our lives might also foretell the coming of peace. Teach us to share good news with those who yearn for transformation and to listen for your gospel when we need a change of heart. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn #87: *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* (please stand)

Call to Confession

Together let us confess our sin and lament the ways
in which we have been separated from God, praying:

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, as we watch and wait for signs of your expansive love, forgive our narrow thinking. As we repent in the wilderness with John, we confess that we often lack the imagination to testify to the coming light. As we visit the home of Elizabeth, we lament our loss of wonder and our failure to recognize miracles among us. Even as we hear the witness of the angels and the shepherds, we confess that we do not make haste to go and see the Christ. Forgive our apathy and small-mindedness. When the wait is over and all is finished, open our minds to recognize the strength and wisdom of Christ, God with us. Amen.

Declaration of Pardon

Hear this good news: in Christ there is strength and wisdom,
expansive love and everlasting grace.

**We are forgiven and transformed to go and proclaim the wonder
of the one who is coming.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory Be to the Father #581:

Anthem: *Every Valley* Patti Drennan

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Holy God, the church triumphant gathers around your throne to praise you. We join them in worship and remember your sustaining grace in every generation. Heal our divisions; show us unity in your presence.

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Offering #711: *Lord of All Good* vs. 1 and 3

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Change Your Heart* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn #503: *Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation*

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, from east and west,
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.

We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and 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!

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and

wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry;

believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

Prayer After Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #106: *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Benediction: (remain standing)

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthen us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, be with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Postlude on "Salvation" - David Lasky*

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