

Worship LCR – December 6, 2020

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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 strive to 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 candle is lit*)

Let us pray: God of all people and all nations, you break through the cynicism of our world and lead us like a gentle shepherd. Open our eyes to see the signs of your coming kingdom and inspire us to participate in all you are doing in Jesus' name. Amen.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.**

Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day – Dear God, peace sounds good but is hard to accomplish. Please fill us with your peace so that we may go out into the world and do the difficult job of peace-making knowing you are by our side. **Amen.**

Luke 1:46-55

⁶And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

SERMON/REFLECTION

HYMN – *words for reflection*

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - er - t far and near.
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

OFFERING – *There is an offering plate on the table for you to use. We will not pass the plate. As another kind of offering, let's take a moment to offer thanks for the places we have seen God this week.*

PRAYERS

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

HOLY COMMUNION

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 trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
☩ now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL & PASSING OF PEACE

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.