SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023
9:00 AM

New Song

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119
www.firstpressarasota.org

WELCOME AND INVITATION — Tim Boggess

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES — Jenn & Denver Stutler

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared,
"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak 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."

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace,
yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us
to keep quiet and go with the flow.
We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

We light these candles as signs of God's
shocking hope and just peace.
May they be beacons calling us to repent
and to live the good news of Jesus Christ
as we wait and watch and labor for the day
when all people can gather together
to worship and glorify God. **Amen.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Angels From the Realms of Glory

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God,
we confess that it is hard for us
to wait for you.
The concerns of today
and the worries of tomorrow
chip away at our faith.
The bad news of the world
gets more of our attention than
the good news of your gospel.
Open our eyes to the presence
of your kingdom among us,
even as we wait
for it to come in its fullness.
Teach us to wait with hope.**

(a moment for silent reflection)

(over)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING THE PEACE

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - RESURRECTION HOUSE Mason Ayres
Executive Director

SONG OF PREPARATION *Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:1-11, 27-31

MESSAGE *The Gift of Waiting* Tim Boggess

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING SONG *Joy to the World*

BLESSING

Music: CCLI License #2296940