SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 10, 2023
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND INVITATION Rev. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* McDonald and Nelson
(Sean O'Neil, violin, Glenn Priest, Piano)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Jill Beatie and Jeff Bartell

Isaiah 40:1

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.**

***HYMN 104** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best. *(continued next page)*

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love, all loves excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness,
in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness
and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation
we live for that great day
when your renewed creation
your glory shall display.

***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)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***SONG OF JOY 269** (v.2) *Lead on, O King Eternal* LANCASHIRE

Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy
the heavenly kingdom comes.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR DISCIPLESHIP - RESURRECTION HOUSE Mason Ayres
Executive Director

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Cornish
(Chancel Choir with Sean O'Neil & Glenn Priest)

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega;
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him.
Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Page 653

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *The Gift of Waiting* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A Declaration of Faith (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman
as is every child,
yet born of God's power
as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life
are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself
the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Steven Phillips

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 744** *Arise, Your Light is Come!* FESTAL SONG

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE *Sonata No. 6* J.S. Bach/
(Sean O'Neil & Glenn Priest) arr. Robert Schumann

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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