

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PHILIPSTOWN

Loving God...Loving Neighbor...for 190 years



WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

December 13, 2020 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

I will light candles this [Advent]:
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

ADVENT HYMN: *Creator of The Stars of Night*

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch but the child of Mary, blameless other mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, Like those in heaven shall call you Lord.

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Peace, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Please join in reading together:

O Advent God,
in this strange topsy-turvy time
when many of our seasonal traditions have had to change
and we wait as much with anxiety or uncertainty as expectation,
we often forget
to follow the voice of the prophet
and the light of a star
that want to lead us
to rediscover who God is
and who we can yet be.
Forgive us and call us from the smallness of our daily plans
to the bigness of your vision.
Help us move from weary wanderings
to new ways of embodying justice.

As we await the prince of peace
may we do our part
to make joy a reality on earth.
With hope and commitment
we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

As we are on this path of peace together, please take a moment to look around at our “zoom boxes” and share the peace with an air hug, a peace sign, or a wave. The Peace of Christ be with you.

OFFERING

Friends, God has given us many good gifts, and God calls us to respond. You may send an offering to the church in the mail to 10 Academy Street Cold Spring, or donate on our website via paypal at www.presbychurchcoldspring.org

OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, we offer our gifts to you that they may be used to further the promise of hope, peace, love, and justice in our community and in our world. Empower us, O God, to follow these gifts into our community and world so that they, and we, become bearers of peace, love and justice on the earth. Amen.

FIRST READING “Overland to the Islands” by Denise Levertov

Ron Sopyla

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46b-55

Rev. Dr. Susan DeGeorge

SERMON “Every Step An Arrival”

ADVENT HYMN: *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a flowret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rev. Dr. Susan De George is the Stated Clerk of Hudson River Presbytery and teaches religion and philosophy at Mercy College and Pace University, where her area of specialization is World Religions and the Environment. She is also a lawyer, a GreenFaith fellow, a Master Composter/Recycler, and a member of HRPGreen.