

Sunday, November 29, 2020

First Sunday in Advent

We answer Christ's call by:

Worshiping God

Welcoming All

Caring for Human Dignity

Serving in the World

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Pat Singer

WELCOME & LIFE IN THE CHURCH

- First Sunday of Advent - Join in a Zoom fellowship after church (link in Wednesday's email).
- Ramapo Community Chefs - Help out families struggling with food insecurity. Contact Betsy Bostwick or Sue Ternquist.
- 1. Project Joy: Instead of gifts for children, People to People is requesting that we provide families with Gift Cards from stores such as Target, Kohl's, Old Navy, Amazon, etc. Please drop off your Gift Cards at their Office by Dec. 4th.
- Share Your Musical Gifts - December 27 (Due December 12)

CHORAL INTROIT

Soon and Very Soon

Germonds Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

Caryn Guazza

Compassionate God, greet us with your grace this day, for we need you.

We cannot save ourselves.

Though we may be frantic with activity, our efforts do not yield peace, peace as you can give.
Today we would be quiet enough to hear your voice.
Today we would be still enough to feel your touch.
Help us to find that place where we can receive as well as give, wait as well as act, listen as well as speak.
Our whole world needs your peace, O God.
Let us come before you and learn your ways, laying down our weapons and feeding the hungry.
Come to us now through Jesus Christ.
Let us come to worship you.

OPENING PRAYER

Emmanuel, Holy One, we begin with hope. As you have lit our Thanksgiving gatherings - the abundant and the meager, the festive table and the lonely chair - we call upon you to be the light of our Advent season now beginning. Shine on the email sent and the soldier far from home, the shopping expedition and the overworked mail carrier, the *adjusted* pageant planning and the essential workers at the grocery stores. Let our lives reflect to others the hope you shine in us.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SCRIPTURE

Caryn Guazza

Luke 1:5-25

5 In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6** Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. **7** But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

8 Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, **9** he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. **10** Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. **11** Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12** When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. **13** But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. **14** You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15** for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy

Spirit. **16** He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. **17** With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” **18** Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” **19** The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20** But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

21 Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. **22** When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. **23** When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

24 After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, **25** “This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Caryn Guazza

God of the loving heart, we confess before you those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt you, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of your Christ. Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live. Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a new home among us. Be known among us now and forever.

[a time for silent confession]

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

We can stand before God,

Not through our own goodness,

But through God’s great kindness to us.

Rejoice and be glad, for God comes to you!

SCRIPTURE

Joel 2:12-13, 28-29

12 Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

28 Then afterward

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female slaves,
in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

MESSAGE

“Dreams and Visions”

Rev. Abbie Huff

ANTHEM

What Child is This?

Melissa Alexander - piano & arranger, Heather Hamann - violin, Martha Colby - cello

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go To The World

Germonds Choir

POSTLUDE

Savior Of The Nations, Come

Pat Singer