

# **WORSHIP SERVICE**

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday in Advent*

*December 10, 2023*

*10:00 AM*

**PRELUDE** *(Jes Stehr, vibraphone & Andy Chen, piano)*  
*Ave Maria*

Bach/Gounod

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Advent Study, Tuesday (12/12) at 7:30 AM (Calm Waters Coffee) & 11:30 AM in the Large Conference Room.
- Men's Breakfast, Wednesday (12/13) at 8:30 AM at Robin Hood.

# CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

(George & Kathy Hurwitz)

SINGERS: *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.*

*(HYMN #84: Creator of the Stars of Night)*

READER 1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and set lights in the sky — sun and moon and stars. By these stars, our ancestors charted their journeys. By these stars, they knew God was with them.

READER 2: Today we light two candles to bring the fire of the stars down from heaven to earth, to nestle among the greens. We name this candle Hope. (Light the first candle.) We name this candle Peace. (Light the second candle.)

**ALL: We too are on a journey, and we do not always know the way. But we chart our path by the star of peace. Even when violence and fear are raging and peace seems like a pipedream, we set our face steadily towards the light.**

READER 1: Listen now to the plea of the apostle Paul: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,” (Philippians 4:6-7).

READER 2: Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of peace this week, help us to become the signs of peace for which others are searching. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s peace. Amen.

# HYMN

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

**“Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!” so says our God.**

**“Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow's load.**

**To my people now proclaim  
That my pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their sins I cover,  
And that their warfare now is over.”**

GENEVAN 42



**For the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance,  
Since the reign of God is here.  
O, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise in meeting  
And the hills bow down in greeting.**



**Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits God's holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God's word is never broken.**





# **RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: A NEW WAY**

**ONE:** Remember, O God, the people of this world, divided into many nations, religions and tongues.

**MANY:** **Deliver us from every evil that stands in the way of your saving purpose and fulfill the promise of peace on earth among those with whom you are well pleased.**

**ONE:** Help us find a new way, God, to turn from the curse of war and the human sin that causes war;

**MANY:** **A way from pride that turns its back on you; from unbelief that will not bow to you,**

ONE: Away from self-righteousness that will not compromise, from selfishness that glories in the oppression of others,

**MANY: From the lust for property or power that drives humanity to kill, from trusting in the weapons of war and mistrusting the councils of peace;**

ONE: From hearing, believing and speaking lies about other nations and religions,

**MANY: From ground-less suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,**

ONE: From words and deeds that encourage discord, prejudice and hatred;

**MANY: From everything that prevents the human family from fulfilling your promise of peace.**

ONE: And now, O God, hear our private confessions we lift up to you in silence...

*We pause for a moment of silent, personal confession.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

# HYMN

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*GLORY TO GOD*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**World without end, without end. Amen**

**World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

# **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Mark 1:1-18*

## **SERMON**

*Holy Interruption*

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer



# HYMN

*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.**



**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.**





# **CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

*(Scan the QR Code to give online →)*



# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** *(Jes Stehr, vibraphone and Chime Choir)*

*Away in a Manger*

arr. Gottry & Conover

# **DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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



# **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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

# HYMN

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*VENI EMMANUEL*

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of several white stars of varying sizes hanging from thin white vertical lines against a light beige background.

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ordered all things mightily:  
To us the path of knowledge show;  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



**O come, thou Root of Jesse,  
Free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



# **VISUAL BENEDICTION**

*One Day*

Koolulam

The benediction video can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/XqvKD5CP5-xE>

**POSTLUDE** (*Jessica Stehr, piano & Trish Conover, organ*)

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Gottry



## WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Advent Candle Liturgy** is written by Carol Holbrook Prickett and posted for free use by The Presbyterian Outlook. Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett joyfully serves the people of Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church in Northern Kentucky and creates fresh resources for worship at [deepwellworship.com](http://deepwellworship.com).

The **Prayer of Confession** is posted on the Main Street Congregational Church website. <http://www.main-street-church.org/files/45997849.pdf>

The **Prayer for Illumination** is adapted from Common Order by Rev. Chris Wigglesworth and posted on the Church of Scotland's "Starters for Sunday" website.

The **Prayers of the People** are written by Richard J Einerson, posted on Richard J. Einerson: Prayers of the People. For more of his prayers, see his book, Prayers of the People.

The **Visual Benediction** was produced by Koolulam, self-described as “a social - musical initiative aimed at empowering communities and strengthening the fabric of society... through collaborative, creative experiences that bring together people of different backgrounds, cultures, faiths and geographies.” Today’s video was filmed on June 14, 2018 at Jerusalem’s Tower of David with people from all over the country, young and old, alone and with families; Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. For more information on Koolulam and its mission, visit [www.koolulam.com](http://www.koolulam.com) and Koolulam | One Day - Matisyahu | Haifa | Feb. 14th, 2018 - YouTube

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