

Sunday, December 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light.

The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

*PRELUDE "Little Brown Church" on screen

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light; we have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings. Smooth down the mountains of our pride, and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. We now share our own private confession in silence . . . [Silence as we each pray] . . . And we affirm these prayers together by saying, Amen!

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #442 "The Church's One Foundation" on screen

PRAYER OF READINESS

God of Hope, as we enter into this time of year when the darkness grows deeper, we wait expectantly for the light of your coming. Help us not to fill our time with busy-ness, but to embrace these quiet, reflective days. Open our eyes and hearts to see and experience all the ways you come to us. As we study and pray and wait, fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

SONG: "Prayer of Being" Sanctuary Choir

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

SERMON "Hope is on the Way in Surprising Ways"

Scripture

Matthew 3: 1-17

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

RESPONDING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

To share a joy or concern: Click [HERE](#) or use the QR code.

OFFERING

To give online: Click [HERE](#), or use the QR code.

SONG: "Old Rugged Cross" Oran, Don & Mike

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Some of our worship elements are adapted from *First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies*, posted on www.ministrymatters.com, Laura Smith posted on erpc.org and from *Literature and Liturgy* posted on jesusscribbles.wordpress.com



Red Canyon High School
Student's 3rd Annual Sock
Drive.

On behalf of Red Canyon, ERPC
will have drop-off bins in the
narthex though Dec 18th. Seeking new, adult socks.

Pastor Pat Smith, pat@erpc.org

Don Watson, Music Director, don@erpc.org

Cathy McGee, Executive Administrator, office@erpc.org