

Sunday, December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace



GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" Praise Band

WELCOME

*WORDS OF BLESSING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Susan Martinez

*HYMN #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

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. [. . . silence as we each pray . . .] As Advent unfolds, help us remember your steadfast love that always holds true. From this love, help us to live more and more like Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

MUSIC "Light of the World" Praise Band

MINUTE FOR MISSION Katherine McKay

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF READINESS

Long-awaited Savior, you are the promise of the prophets. We are witnesses to your arrival and your on-going mission in us and through us. As we wait for you again, enlighten and enliven us, send us out to live in your ways and spread your message so that all may see, hear, know and believe that you are the coming of God, the Messiah, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 29:5-14

SERMON "The World Waits: We Plan"
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

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

MUSIC "Blessed Assurance"

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GOING IN GOD'S NAME

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Pastor Pat Smith, pat@erpc.org

Don Watson, Music Director, Don@erpc.org

Cathy McGee, Executive Administrator, office@erpc.org

Laura Smith, Director of Spiritual Formation, laura@erpc.org

ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

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.

Loaves and Fishes Hosts Needed

Give the Gift of Food this Christmas by signing up to Host a Loaves and Fishes Community Dinner

We still need volunteers to host on Dec 13, Jan 3, Jan 24 and Jan 31.

Contact Kent Petrie (petrie@vail.net) to sign up!



Serving Avon since 2004

Budgeted Giving for 2023 \$503,000

Total received \$381,000 76% as of 12/03/2023.

Thank you for the 26 new pledges received to date for next year.