

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Order of Worship

Prelude

Prelude in Classic Style
Gordon Young
Suk Choi, Organist

Welcome

Pastor Jim

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Craig and Kelley Baker

Reader One: This Advent Season we watch and wait for Christ's coming!
We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises
of God with prayer. We have lit the first candle of Advent in hope.

This morning we light this candle for peace.

Reader Two: Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 11: 1 -10:
A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for
the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader One: The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead
them.
The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover
the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader Two: Let us pray.
Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended
harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies
in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.
God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

Call to Worship

Pastor Jim

Leader: The advent of Christ brings the joy of God's presence in our midst!

People: *We sing praises to God for the salvation Christ brings to us!*

Leader: Because of Christ, the weak are strengthened, the fearful are encouraged, and
the unrighteous are redeemed!

**People: *Joy and gladness are ours, because God has come to us in Christ to walk with us
in the paths of righteousness!***

**All: *As we continue our preparations for Christmas, may our celebrations renew our
faith and fill us with joy and thanks.***

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jim

O God, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us to be watchful for the coming of your promised one -- the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation, the one who comes as a servant wrapped in the clothes of humility. Amen.

Hymns of Praise
(please stand if able)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Neale, Parks
Logan Altman, Worship Leader
Sho Fujieda, Drums & Chris Rivera, Electric Bass

***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!***

***O come, Thou Rod 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!***

***O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds by night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel!***

He Shall Reign Forevermore
Tomlin, Maher

*In the bleak mid-winter
All creation groans
For a world in darkness
Frozen like a stone
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne*

*(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore*

*If I were a wise man
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd
I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart*

*(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore*

*Here within a manger lies the One
Who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ the Messiah*

*(And) He shall reign forevermore forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore
Unto us a Child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore forevermore*

Invitation to the Prayer of Confession

Mark Imfeld

Friends, we are in the presence of the righteous and holy God. Let us humbly confess our neediness and ask for God's grace and mercy. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Mark Imfeld

We confess to you, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions and live our daily lives without much thought outside of ourselves. Forgive us for our shortsightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonders and signs that you are doing something new in our world and in our lives. Help us to seek you in the face of others. Call us into your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching and waiting for your return in our world and in our lives in a new way. Stir in us a spirit of repentance that we might confess our shortcomings before you now in the silence of our hearts.

Silent Prayer.

Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Mark Imfeld

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. As we wait for Christmas, we know that Christ has already come into our world and lives, has already been born in us. We are renewed and restored. Go and share the good news of God's love and restoration. In Christ we are forgiven.

Response of Thanksgiving

(please stand if able)

Gloria Patri

LNPC Chancel Choir

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

Passing of the Joy & Peace of Christ

Pastor Sara

Time For Young Disciples

Susie Hess

Prayer Song

*God is always near me,
God will always hear me,
When I pray.*

First Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1 - 11

Pastor Sara
Pew Bible p. 667

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn of Preparation
(please stand if able)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People
Johannes G. Olearius, Translator: Catherine Winkworth
LNPC Chancel Choir
#132 (vv. 1, 2)

***"Comfort, comfort now my people;
Tell of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow's load.***

***To God's people now proclaim
That God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever!***

***For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling all to true repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.***

***Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him!***

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Sermon**Advent in Song: Breath of Heaven****Pastor Jim****Time of Reflection****Blessing of Tithes and Offerings****Pastor Sara**

Offertory

A Voice Cries Out, "Prepare the Way of the Lord"

Lloyd Larson

Jaime Colley, Soloist

LNPC Chancel Choir

A voice cries out,
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain made low."

A voice cries out,
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain made low."

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;
All people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!"

A voice cries out,
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain made low."

Comfort, comfort my people;
Proclaim the promise of the Lord:
His name shall be called Emmanuel!
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

A voice cries out,
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
And every mountain made low.
And every mountain made low."

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor Jim and Pastor Sara

The Invitation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Celebration of Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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 forever. Amen

Hymn of Response
(please stand if able)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Georg Wissel, Catherine Winkworth, Translator
LNPC Chancel Choir

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates.
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is come!*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.*

Charge and Benediction
(please remain standing if able)

Pastor Jim

Choral Response

Prayer for the Road
LNPC Chancel Choir

*May we be blessed as we go on our way.
May we be kept in safety and love.
May grace and compassion find their way to every soul,
May this be our blessing, Amen.
Amen, Amen.
May this be our blessing, Amen
Amen, Amen.
May this be our blessing, Amen.*

Postlude

He Shall Feed His Flock
G. F. Handel
Suk Choi, Organist

Today's Chancel flowers are given by Tom and Carol Stocksdales
in celebration of their grandson Brooks' third birthday.

Music used by permission CCLI 504316

Laguna Niguel Presbyterian C H U R C H



And Mary said
"My soul
magnifies
the Lord."

LUKE 1: 46

Announcements
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023

Prayer Concerns

Family & Friends (Church Contact)

Claro Alfonso (Imfeld)
George Arakelian Family
(Troester)

Bill Brosnan (Troester)

Gary Fong (Ehlers)

Mike & Kathy Gessner
(Galloway)

Dr. John Grande (Troester)

Hunter (Troester)

Sherry Kerner (Ehlers)

Amy Lechner Bolls (Lechner)

Leisle Family (LeBlanc)

Rossana Madrid (Ondryas)

Joni McGlynn (Bakers)

Erik McMahan (Rihovsky)

Barry McPeak (Ehlers)

Gary Mills (Ondryas)

Marge Molyneaux (Shelton)

Samia Najm (Wakim)*

Marie Neis (Borg)

Ann Oliphant (Galloway)

John Osth (Khalfia)

Mike Otoupalik (Troester)

Linda Parker (Troester)

Maryann Pette (Shelton)

Cindy Rhoades (Baker)

George Rihovsky

Megan Shelton (Shelton)

Ken & Ginger Simonson (Borg)

Amy Sinkeldam (Ehlers)

Kyoko Smith (Wright)

Carolyn Strick (Troester)

Kevin Strick (Troester)

John Stritch (Ehlers)

Michael Summers (Troester)

Lynnette Swickard (Baker)

Jim Wagner (Ehlers)

Dr. Mark Watters Family
(Troester)

Ted Wells (Wells)

Lauren Williams (Shelton)

Wilson Family (Coleman)

Prayer Concerns

LNPC Members

Doris Black
Claire Burrill
Joe and Carolyn Ditto
John Flannery
Steve Foster
Joanne Jannard
Cheryl Kelsey
Nancy LeBlanc
Kathleen Lechner

Richard Odgers
Ron Pearce
Louanne Robeson
Kathleen Roebuck
Linda Schmidt
Jody Schnitzer
Jean Shelton
Karen Vassey
John and Lina Wakim
Gary Wright

Peace & Comfort

Doris Black & Family (Husband)
Borg Family (Sandy's Brother)
Jane Carpenter & Family
(Husband)
Campman Family (Marilyn)
Brian Mangan & Family (Wife)
Cecil Spearman & Family (Wife)
Christa Strick (Troester)

LNPC STAFF

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