

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

9:00 a.m.

**All who are able may stand.*

Bold type spoken by the congregation

Self-service assistive listening devices are located on top of the bookcase at the rear of the Sanctuary on the Princess Anne St. side.

GATHERING. . .



*Masks are to be worn throughout the service.
Please remain seated for the hymns.*



The Prelude

Advent Carol
Jubilate Ringers

Hal Hopson

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

People, Look East

The Call To Worship

Lighting of the *Advent Candle*, Nick Medina
...as we light our second Advent candle,
we pray for the holy peace of God.
Come now, O Child of Mary.
Come now, O Prince of Peace.

The Prayer of Adoration

O God of Peace, Your way is sure and leads to salvation. You sent Your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. You send Your son, the promise of life eternal; Your Holy Spirit guides us to truth. We hear Your heralds proclaim the path of obedience, receive Your abounding grace, and are strengthened to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness. Make firm our footsteps as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see Your reign of peace through Your just and gracious rule. All praise be to You, O Loving God! Amen.

The Hymn 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

*Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.*

REFRAIN: *O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.*

*He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. REFRAIN*

*Fling wide your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. REFRAIN*

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and Brothers, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven,
for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

(from Psalm 85)

The Gloria Patri (spoken)

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

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshipping at home, please share Christ's peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

The Epistle Lesson: *2 Peter 3:8-15a*

The Anthem

Every Valley

Joseph M. Martin

Chris Fisher, soprano; Mary Ann Casey, alto, Roy Jarnecke, tenor; Larry Casey, bass

*Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain be made low.
Every valley shall be lifted, and the crooked be made whole.
Sound the trumpet for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
Come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, give thanks and sing! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.*

A Moment With the Children

The Gospel Lesson: *Mark 1:1-8*

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Sermon

Dreaming Ahead
Allen H. Fisher, Jr.

TO RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD. . .

The *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

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.**

TO GO FORTH AND SERVE IN GOD'S NAME. . .

The Hymn 163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

*Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still, calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will: "Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.*

*"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love. Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above. Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."*

*With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near, and his timeless warnings
hold words of hope to all who hear. So we dare to journey on, Led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.*

The Charge and Benediction

The Postlude

Episode on "Truro"

arr. Lani Smith

● ● ●
*Kindly remain seated during the Postlude.
You will be dismissed by our Safety Ushers from the back to the front of the Sanctuary.
We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.*
● ● ●

Announcements for December 2-9

Together in Advent

In a time of year when we previously celebrated together socially, publicly, and congregationally, this December is different. Pandemic fatigue is a reality for many of our members. Yet diligence and attentiveness are now even more critical according to the public health officials. Wear your mask, wash your hands, and be careful about social distancing.

This week, your pastors have learned of several households in the congregation that have tested positive for the virus in recent days. Thankfully no one from these families has as yet required hospitalization. We assume that when we learn of such infections, there likely are other households impacted from whom we have not heard.

If you or any member of your family has need of help with groceries, medical supplies or other issues, please be in touch with the church office. If you have difficulty viewing our services and participating in worship from home, let us know. If, for whatever reason, you or a family member are hospitalized for a period of time, please call or email.

If you are one of the many members who want to help families in need, let us know by contacting the church office. We are grateful for the willingness and encouragement we share with those of you who have already volunteered in this way.

While we may not see each other regularly on the church campus, it is good to know that the great Good News of Advent – Emmanuel, God with us, is still being enacted and witnessed to in our lives virtually, in reality, and in person.

Stay safe and healthy! And look for us in worship.

Blessings,

Lindsay, Brittany, and Allen

Reserve Your Seat for Sunday Worship by FRIDAY NOON

If you would like to participate in Worship in the Sanctuary this Sunday, please make a reservation by calling the church office, 540-373-7057, Monday - Friday between 9:00 a.m. and Noon.

You may also make your reservation online by using ACSReservations by clicking on this link:

https://secure.accessacs.com/access/login_guest.aspx?sn=90894. This is a new system so don't hesitate to call the church office if you have questions.

Church Family News:

Capsule of Concern: Scott Fischer, Doris Glidden, Doris Guttsi, Karl Karch, Karla Lewis, Billie Plank, Larry Repanshek, Tim Tariar, Pam Werner

Lectionary Readings for Sunday, December 13:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55;
I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Birthdays this week December 6-13

6. Kaci LeFebre
7. Steve Eckel, Elizabeth Saunders Morris
8. Barry Hall, Shirley Phillips
9. Gwen Woolf
10. Laura Chewning, Bob Lang, Milton McNatt
12. Nicole Fritz, David Hancock, Cecily Whalen

Plans for **worship on Christmas Eve** are still tentative. We are carefully watching local health advisories and restrictions on gatherings as circumstances change. -- Watch your email for updates!

Weekly Meetings & Activities

Wed. (12/2) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

Contact Marsha Lockett (luckett@juno.com).

Thurs. (12/3) — Women's Bible Study, 9:30am (Zoom)

Contact Marsha Lockett (luckett@juno.com).

Handbells, 6pm (Sanct. Balcony)

Choir Recording, 7:30 p.m.

Sun. (12/6) — Worship, 9am (Sanctuary & Youtube)

Adult Church School Classes—Schedule on page 2

Neverending Circle, 2:00pm (Zoom)

Contact Trudy McNatt Zoom link

Sacred Dance, 3:30pm (Undercroft)

Middle School Fellowship, 5pm (In-person)

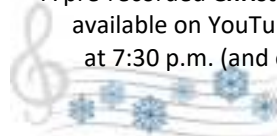
High School Fellowship, 5:pm (Zoom)

Tues. (12/8) — Men's Breakfast Group, 7:30am (FH & Zoom)

Contact John Howe (jhowe1969@cox.net).

Wed. (12/9) — Meditation Group, 5:30pm (Zoom)

A pre-recorded **Christmas Vespers Service** will be available on YouTube on Sunday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. (and enjoyed anytime after).



Service and Mission

Share a Meal With Your Neighbors--Part 2!

Would you like to make 6 meals for the December 19 Community "Dinner?" You would prepare either a ham, meatloaf, chicken or turkey dinner plus sides of your choice and deliver the hot meals to the church parking lot at 4:15 p.m. on the 19th. Teams will deliver the meals to homeless Micah guests staying in local motels. Takeout boxes may be picked up beforehand in the Education Building Lobby or Karen Johnson will deliver them to you. Bakers are also needed to donate 6 baggies with 6 cookies in each bag. Contact Karen for more information and to sign up: 540-371-2719, 540-621-5685, (ksjohnson422@msn.com).

The Salvation Army is having a Collection Drive for items to be distributed during the holiday season for "Seniors in Need" and children. If you would like to participate, you may bring the following items to the Education Building Lobby.

For "Seniors in Need" -- Personal items (hand lotion, shampoo, shaving cream), paper products (paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, wipes), cleaning products (laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish detergent,), and linens (bath towels, and dish towels, sheets).

For children (under 12) -- Art supplies (crayons, coloring pencils, coloring books), puzzles, hair accessories, purses, footballs, basketballs, legos, and coats.

If you have questions, contact Marsha Luckett, 372-2050. Items will be delivered to the Salvation Army on **December 4**.



Shopping at Amazon this holiday season? If you shop at AmazonSmile instead of the regular Amazon site and choose Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice, a portion (0.5%) of eligible products you purchase will automatically go to our church. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. To date, the AmazonSmile Foundation has contributed over \$200 million to charitable organizations.

To set up Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church as your charity of choice, **1)** log into Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) using your Amazon ID and password. **2)** Below the search box, click the down arrow to the right of the Supporting box; **3)** in the box below the "Or pick your own charitable organization," line type "Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church;" **4)** click on the "Search" button. **5)** On the next screen, "Select" Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church.

Please note that this is not an endorsement of Amazon. This action recommendation only is for persons who already shop at Amazon. This program costs nothing and provides a way to help the church's finances. Session thanks you for your consideration and support.

Adult Ministry and Education (Youth participation is welcomed and encouraged)

Holy Disunity: How What Separates Us Can Save Us ~ Sunday – 10:30 a.m. Coordinators: Jim and Patty Toler

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83350523383?pwd=bmdyTTFKZkgyNTh4Z1JzWXR2bm95dz09>

Faith and Movie Class ~ Sunday – 12:00 p.m. Coordinators: Eric and Kathy Rocholl; Marty and Vicky Wilder

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86844083632?pwd=YIZIMjVJT1hnSWg5WHIZeDZ2a0lhUT09>

Parables and Peanuts ~ Sunday – 4:00 p.m. Coordinator: Bill Nix

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82114607291?pwd=dkZEU2R6eVYrOUVUeHIWYVQ5WWUydz09>

On December 13, Layton Williams, author of *Holy Disunity* will be joining the class at 12:00 p.m. Note: The Holy Disunity class is switching time with the Faith and Movie class on December 13, only.