

KIMBALL MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

101 VANCE AVE. KANNAPOLIS, NC 28081

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

P: Pastor

A: Assisting Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

PRELUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

~Rita West

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

C **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of new beginnings,

C **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

by Mary Lu Walker Edited by Pastor David R. Keck, Sr

2. Light the Advent Candle two;
Think of John the Baptist, who
Preached the Kingdom of the Lord:
Sins forgiven! Life restored! (*Refrain*)

Refrain: Candle, candle burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christ's own light.

READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

L A reading from 2nd Peter...

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY COMMUNION

We have two options for Communion during this time. You are free to come forward to receive the bread and pre-filled cups of wine from our clergy and lay assistants, returning to your seats after you've deposited the empty cup and following the guidance of our ushers; or you may continue to use the pre-packaged communion elements which are available from the ushers at the entrance to the Sanctuary. However you choose to receive Communion this morning, know that we are glad you're here for this Sacrament!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit let us pray, as Jesus taught.

C **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION

P Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

You may receive the Elements as the words are said:
The Body of Christ given for You; The Blood of Christ shed for You.

COMMUNION SONG *Even So, Come (Come, Lord Jesus)* ~Chris Tomlin

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His Grace.

C **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **ELW 257**

GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LET'S TALK

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

C **Glory to you O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor John Futterer

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

A With the people of God in Christ now and in every time, let us confess our faith.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man. **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**
he suffered death and was buried. **On the third day he rose again**
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. **He will come again in glory**
to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

A Following his resurrection, the Lord Jesus breathed peace upon his disciples. We share in this peace of Christ in the Church today. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

Prayer petitions will conclude: "Merciful God."

The congregation's response is: "receive our prayer."

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

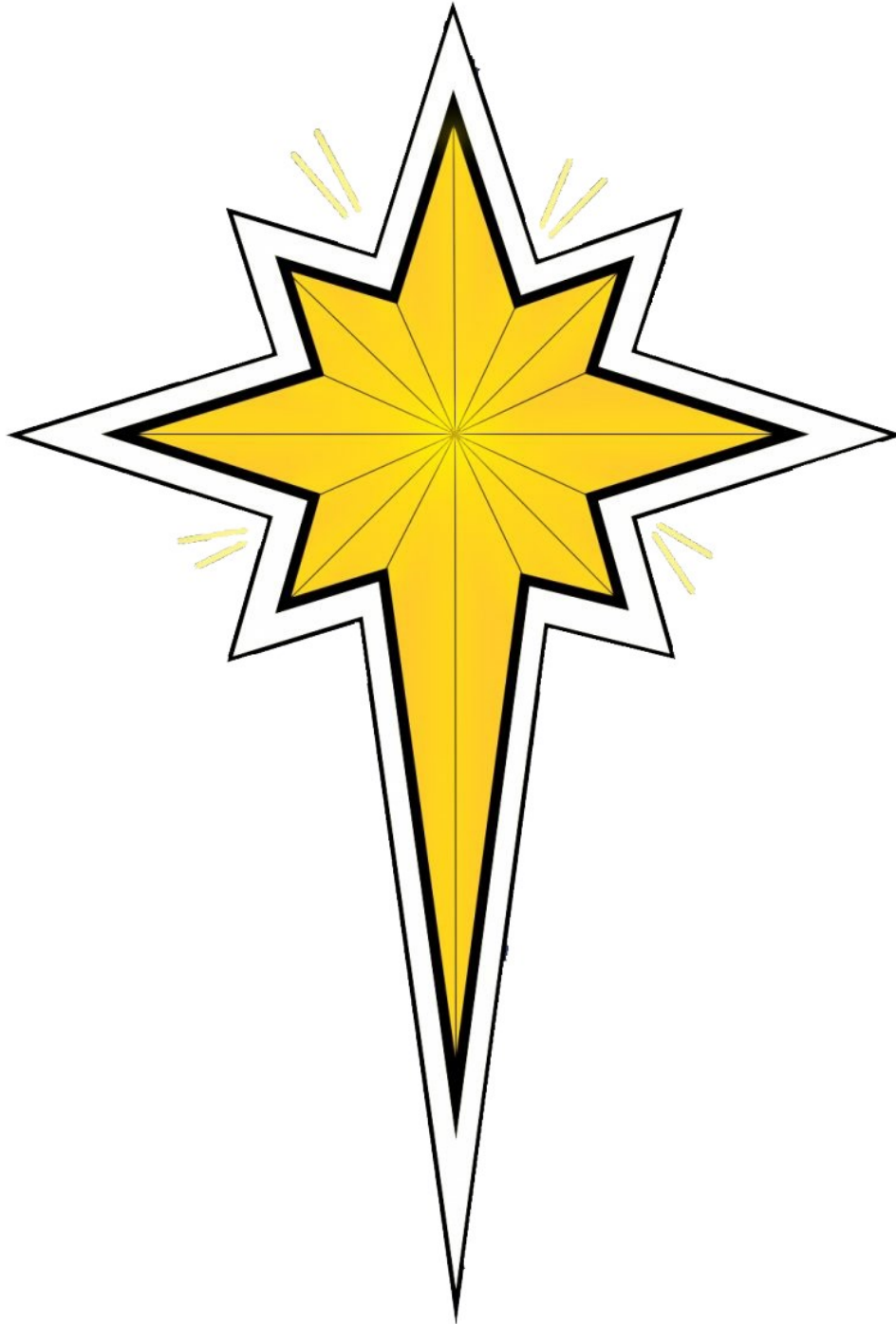
Emmanuel (W&P 36)

Bob McGee

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



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