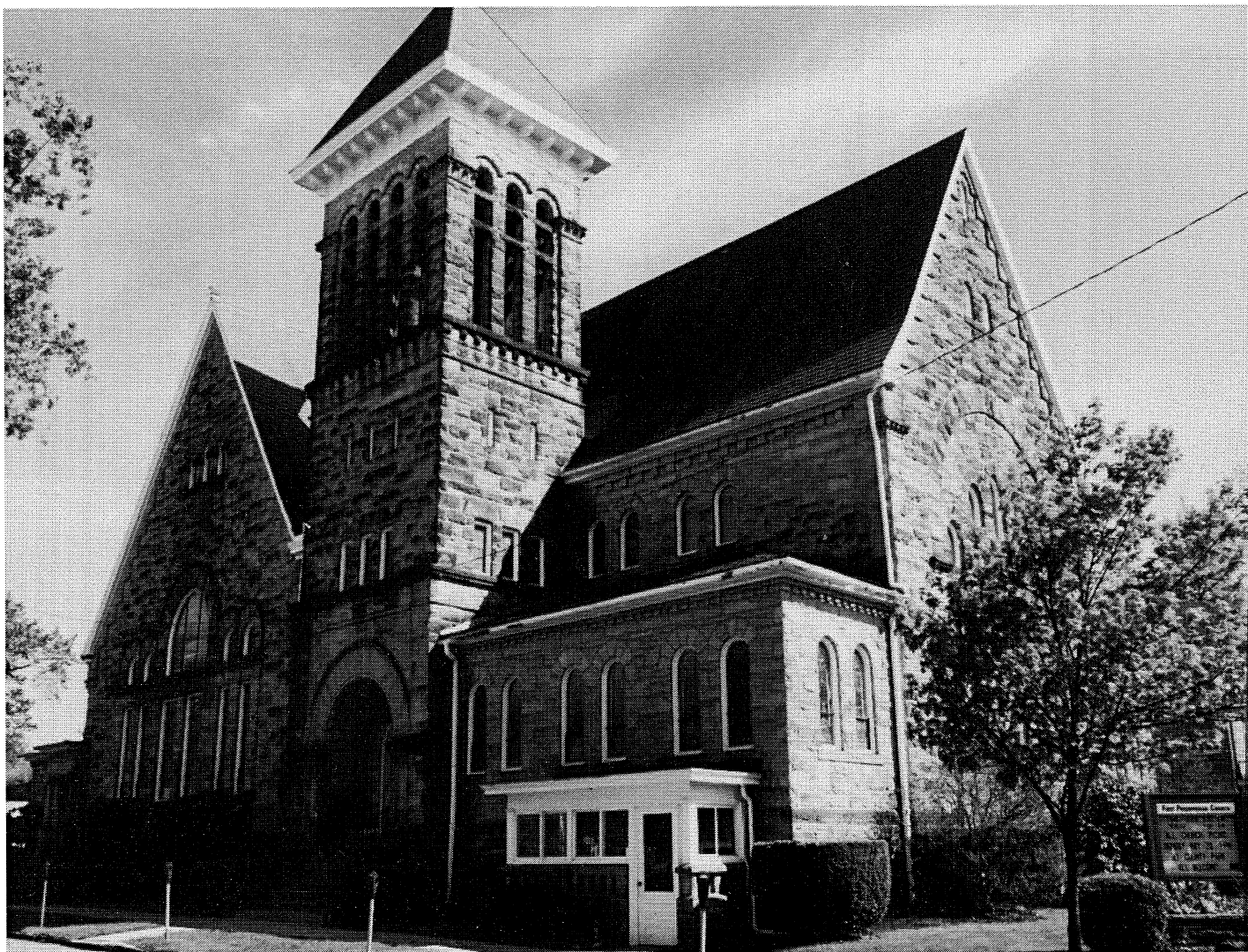


First Presbyterian Church



*Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2024*



700 Wood Street, Clarion, PA 16214

814-226-8145

churchoffice@clarionfirstpresby.org

www.clarionfirstpresby.org

We come together to worship, grow, and serve as disciples of Christ.

We Gather in God's Name

(Tune your car radio to 88.7 FM)

Second Sunday of Advent

We silently shift our focus to God and prepare to worship.

Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

✦ When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

GLORIA PATRI
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

Welcome and Announcements

Lector, Cindy Stants

Prelude

Carol of the Bells
Echoes of Joy Bell Choir

arr. Lloyd Larson

Chiming of the Trinity

Advent Reading and Candle Lighting

Hymn (Insert—vs. 1-3)

We Light the Advent Candles

Tammy Huey, Tammy Slike

Call to Worship

A voice cries out; a prophet speaks;

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

In the wilderness, prepare the way.

God's salvation has come and even now it is on its way.

Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us! Hallelujah!

✦ Hymn No. 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

✦ Call to Confession

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. So, with humility and hope, let us make our confession.

✦ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

The love of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us.

Friends believe the Good News:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

✦ Gloria Patri

We Share God's Word

Time with the Children

Debra Owens

Prayer of Illumination

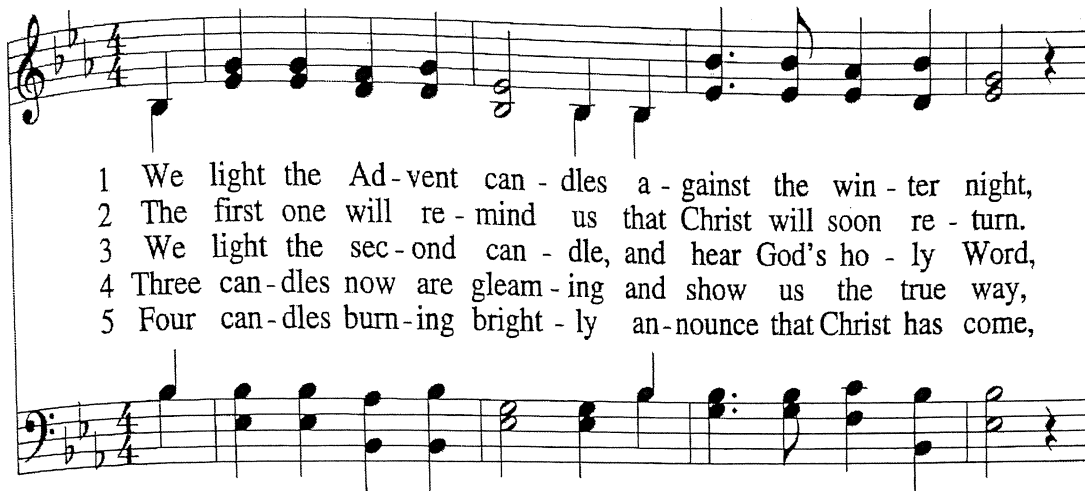
Cindy Stants

First Scripture

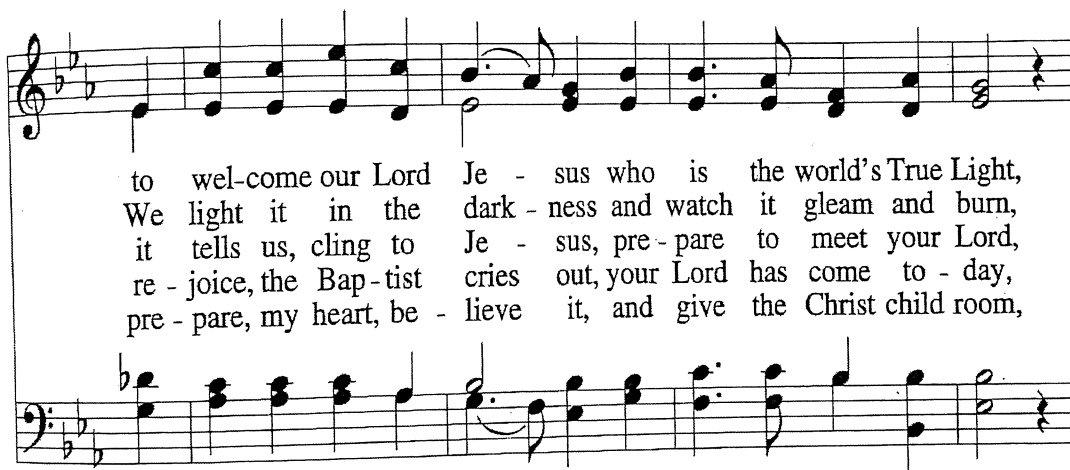
Malachi 3:1-4

(p. 889)

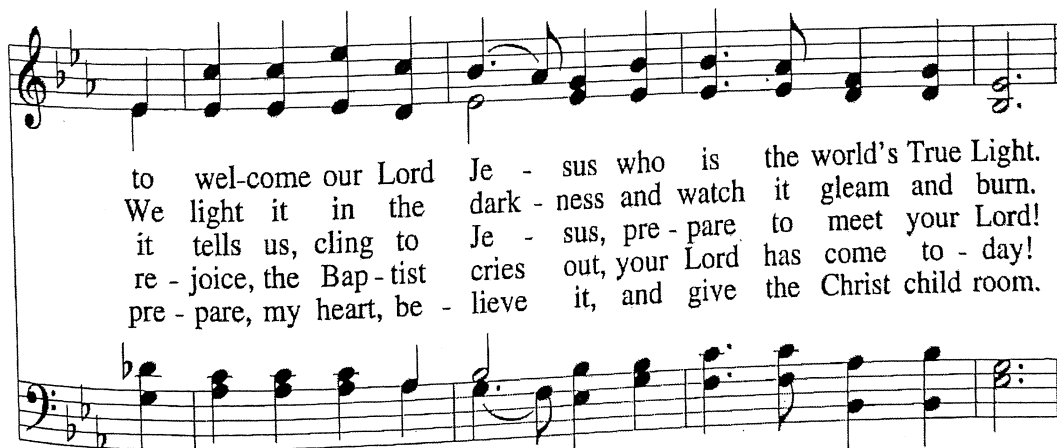
We Light the Advent Candles 175



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dles a - gainst the win - ter night,
 2 The first one will re - mind us that Christ will soon re - turn.
 3 We light the sec - ond can - dle, and hear God's ho - ly Word,
 4 Three can - dles now are gleam - ing and show us the true way,
 5 Four can - dles burn - ing bright - ly an - nounce that Christ has come,



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light,
 We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn,
 it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord,
 re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day,
 pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room,



to wel - come our Lord Je - sus who is the world's True Light.
 We light it in the dark - ness and watch it gleam and burn.
 it tells us, cling to Je - sus, pre - pare to meet your Lord!
 re - joice, the Bap - tist cries out, your Lord has come to - day!
 pre - pare, my heart, be - lieve it, and give the Christ child room.

WELCOME VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. We are glad to provide hybrid and virtual worship services for this Sunday. Services are currently livestreamed on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion) in real time, then archived to our website and YouTube channel.

At First Presbyterian Church our mission is to worship, grow, and serve as followers of Jesus. From our youngest to our oldest, we seek to worship God in our actions, grow in God's love, and serve God's people in our community and around the world. We hope that you will come join us so we may personally extend a warm welcome. If you have any questions or particular prayer needs, please feel free to contact the church office at 226-8145 between 9 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

For more information visit our website at www.clarionfirstpresby.org.

Find us on Facebook! (First Presbyterian Church of Clarion)

Video recordings of past sermons may be viewed by clicking the "Worship" link on our home page at www.clarionfirstpresby.org or a phone app is available at sermon.net (look for First Presbyterian Church—Clarion.) You can also choose to listen to an audio version. Simply pick the option that works best for you. Videos of Sunday worship are also posted on our Facebook page (see above).

All rights reserved. All sheet music uploaded to our website (clarionfirstpresby.org) for use with this worship service has been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-727612 or reprinted with permission under Church Copyright License ® A-21963031, all rights reserved. Livestreamed music is with permission under CCLI Streaming Plus License™ A-21963048 and/or OneLicense.net #A-727612.

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Pastor:	Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Treasurer:	Ann Brooks
Secretary:	Debra Owens
Sexton:	Mike Hetrick
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy

Ruling Elders:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Kathy Larimer	Jeff Deitz	Norma Kooman
Elaine Matticks	Jeff Kapp	Dave Larimer
Pam Reid	Kurt Nesbitt	Cindy Stants

Deacons:

<u>Class of 2024:</u>	<u>Class of 2025:</u>	<u>Class of 2026:</u>
Bonnie Champion	Kim Lewis	Robin Cable
Marianne Reynolds	Lee Seitz	Tamalyn Goble
Mary Swanger	Lori Smith	Joey Kunselman

WORSHIP NOTES

Pastor:	Rev. Rebecca Mihm
Lector:	Cindy Stants
Time with Children:	Debra Owens
Director of Music:	Bonnie Champion
Organist:	Jean Mitrosky
Sound Engineer:	Josh Deitz/Jeff Kapp
Video Engineer:	Dan Willy/Kurt Nesbitt
Acolytes:	Clara Stants, Jeremy Willy, Andrew Scovel, Nathan Scovel, Sawyer Kunselman, Audrina Champion
Ushers in Charge:	Tamalyn Goble, Joey and Gavin Kunselman

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.	Worship
11:00 a.m.	Sunday School
11:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
11:45 a.m.	Cantata Rehearsal

WEEKLY DEPOSIT SUMMARY

12/1/2024

Weekly Contributions

Envelope Contributions	\$2,905.00
Miscellaneous Cash Contributions	<u>\$76.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$2,981.00

Weekly Donations

Food Bags	\$25.00
Caring Callers	<u>\$25.00</u>
Total	\$50.00

Total **\$3,031.00**

Online Donations Nov. 2024, Deposited Dec. 2024

Offering Contributions—Net Amt.	\$684.12
Grand Total	\$3,715.12

NOTES:

Sermon

“Practice and Examine”

Rev. Rebecca Mihm

Organ Interlude

✦Hymn No. 96

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

We Give Thanks to God

✦Advent Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Call for the Offering

Offering and Offertory

Adoration of the Wise Men

Echoes of Joy Bell Choir

Arr. Matthew Prins

✦Doxology

✦Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

We Go Forth to Serve

✦Hymn No. 378

We Wait for the Peaceful Kingdom

✦Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Excerpts from “Set on Veni Emanuel”

Thomas Helmore,
arr. Edward Landin

COPYRIGHTS:
Prelude: “Carol of the Bells,” Arr. Lloyd Larson. Music: © 1997 *Agape*, a div. of *Hope Publishing Co.* a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin.by *Music Services*). Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.
Advent Hymn: “We Light the Advent Candles” from *Worship & Rejoice* #175. Text: Gracia Grindal. Music: German folk tune. Text: © 1999 *Hope Publishing Company*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.
1st Hymn: “Prepare the Way, O Zion” from *Glory to God* #106. Text: Rans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt. Text: © 1982 *Hope Publishing Company*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.
2nd Hymn: “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” from *Glory to God* #96. Text: Charles Coffin 1736; trans. John Chandler 1837, alt. Music: Georg Wittwe’s *Musikalisches Hand-Buch*, Hamburg, 1690; adapt. By William H. Havergal, 1893-1870. Public Domain. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, Public Domain.
Offertory: “Adoration of the Wise Men,” Arr. Matthew Prins. ©2010 *GIA Publications, Inc.* Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.
3rd Hymn: “We Wait for the Peaceful Kingdom” from *Glory to God* #378. Text: Kathleen R. Moore, 2010. Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1983. Text: © 2010 *Hope Publishing Company*. Music: © 1983 *Hope Publishing Company*. Livestreamed and reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.
Postlude: “Excerpts from ‘Set on Veni Emanuel,’” Thomas Helmore, arr. Edward Landin. © 2015 *Lorenz Publishing Co.* a division of *The Lorenz Corporation* (Admin.by *Music Services*). Livestreamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-727612, all rights reserved.

DOXOLOGY
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

POSTLUDE
Please remember at the close of the service, the Postlude is a time to silently reflect on God and the mission to which we are called. We ask that you please remain silent and seated until the music has ended.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

Monday, December 9

6:00 p.m. Mission Team, Ministry Central
7:00 p.m. Worship Team, Chapel

Tuesday, December 10

6:00 p.m. NA Meeting, Step Down Room

Wednesday, December 11

12:00 p.m. Advent Study, CE Opening Room
8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Step Down Room

Thursday, December 12

2:00 p.m. Food Bag Distribution, CE Lobby
6:00 p.m. Joyful Bells Rehearsal

Next Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship
Congregational Meeting
11:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
11:45 a.m. Cantata Rehearsal, Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Study: Come join us for an Advent Study on Wednesdays. We will meet at noon in the CE Building. We will be focusing on Roth Boling's book, Seasons Greetings: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There.

We will have a Congregational Meeting after worship on December 15th. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Pastor's terms of call. The ordination and installation of Elders and Deacons will also take place.

Touched by a Child, Touched by a King: The Adult Choir will present this John Purifoy cantata during worship on Sunday, December 22nd. Follow the experiences of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, and finally all those who believe today, in this combination of song, narration and Christmas texts.

Come join us for Caroling, Cocoa, and Cookies on December 22nd at 5:00 p.m. We will go out and sing and return for cocoa, cookies, and pizza. Please sign-up in the Ramp Room and bring a tray of cookies to the event. Pizza will be provided.

Disaster Clean-Up Buckets: The Mission Team is putting together clean-up buckets and hygiene kits to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. We are coordinating with Church World Service. The need is great and any help is much appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church with "clean-up buckets" on the memo line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

Coat Rack Ministry: As the weather gets colder, please check your closet to see if there are any coats or boots that you are willing to donate. The need is great as witnessed by the turnover each week. If you are in need or know someone who is in need, please take a coat!

The Christmas Joy Offering dates back to the 1930's and equally benefits the Board of Pensions Assistance Program and Presbyterian racial ethnic education and leadership development. Please consider a gift to this fund now through December 22nd. Envelopes are in today's bulletin.

PRAYER LIST

Randy Cable	Ryan Cornicki
Margy Port	Jerry Deitz
Shirley McKinley	Greg Rhoads
Pauline Henry	Don Neideritter
Ruth Ann Minich	Michael Kurtas, Jr.
All our homebound members	Tom Minich

Mary Biser
Charlotte Hartman
Ben McKinley
Laurie Dickey
Anthony Louder
Pat Hargest
Alice Davis
Alexandra Sharrar
Dr. Shannon Penland
Mary Kay Arth
Mason Martin and family
Angelo Gehenio

Joe Amato
Rob Summerville
Evie Renwick
Cori
Chuck Reninger
Grace Carroll
Mike Hiles
Kay Caller
Dan Clark
Amy Benhoff
Archer Kunselman
Lori Beth

Bereaved

Please remember the friends and family of:
Don McCord
Kenneth Daugherty, Jr.
Peggy Seigworth

Around the World

Everyone serving in the US Military

Gitwe Congregation in Rwanda, our faith partners

Homebound Member of the Week

Tim Fulton
Clarion Health Care & Rehab
999 Heidrick Street
Clarion, PA 16214

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking

faith home

Advent brings peace to God's people.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah praises the Lord
Wednesday	Mark 1:1-8	The preaching of John the Baptist
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Luke 3:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare for your coming into our lives and world so that we may know your peace through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent with peace as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)



© 2024 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER 8, 2024
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Prepare the Royal
Highway

taking

faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- To repent means "to turn around." When is a time you were headed in the wrong direction and had to turn around?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God's love shown in Jesus change you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:67-79.

This is a New Testament psalm known as the song of Zechariah. It is a very important song that has been used in the *Matins* (morning prayer) service over the centuries in the church. Zechariah is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message for our lives today. Zechariah prepares us for the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation that is about to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to "the tender mercy of our God" (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah's and Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:67-79 and pause to feel the joy and gladness of Zechariah's song with the message that will "guide our feet into the way of peace" (v. 79b).

Discuss: How does reading Zechariah's song bring you peace and joy?

Pray: Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help someone experience the peace of God's presence?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The second candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of peace. Discuss or think about how preparing the way of the Lord can bring peace. Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace on the Advent Wreath.

Say: Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

(Luke 1: 67, 76)

Pray: Lord God, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org