

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
Sunday December 8 , 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude


Welcome

Pastor Mark

Announcements

Phyllis

Preparation for Worship: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

 The music to this beautiful song was composed in 1872 by English organist John Baptiste Calkin. His creation was inspired a poem by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day of 1863 during our Civil War. He was still mourning the loss of his wife in a house fire and his son in battle. Hearing Christmas bells, he thought their peaceful message mocked his own state of mind. However, Longfellow concluded that "God is not dead, nor does he sleep" and ultimately there will be "...peace on earth, good will to men."

Lighting of the Advent Candles : Hope and Peace

***Hymn #184**

"What Child Is This"

*Invitation to Confession and Repentance

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely; all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we lift our prayers asking for forgiveness . . .

(A time of silent prayer will be kept).

*Assurance of Forgiveness

*Hymn #154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Responsive Scripture Lesson Jeremiah 33:14-16

'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.'

In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.

This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.'

*Hymn #225

"I Wonder as I Wander"

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1: 3-11

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 20: 29-34

Sermon: The questions of Jesus: "What do you want me to do for you?"

*Affirmation of Faith: (from The Shorter Westminster Catechism)

What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy God forever.

What is sanctification?

Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in our whole selves after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live toward righteousness.

Offering: Your continuing, generous support of our Church is greatly appreciated. Please use the Offering plate at the back, or please mail your gifts to the Church office.

***Hymn #182 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

A Time of Sharing

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

***Hymn #180**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

***Benediction: Isaiah 9: 1-2**

***Closing Hymn: #153 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus“ (see screen)**

Postlude: “Once In Royal David’s City”

Leading Worship:

Rev. Dr. Mark Englund-Krieger, Pastor
Linda Clark, Music Coordinator/Organist
Phyllis Smith, Duty Elder

(*Those who are able, please stand)

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