

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

United Church of Christ – Rev. Jacoba Koppert

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PRELUDE *"Pastoral Symphony"*

from Messiah G.F. Handel Karen Mohr

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Haylee Erickson and Carole Romens

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Make his paths straight!

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain shall be made low,
the crooked ways shall be made straight,
and the rough places smooth.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

May all people see the salvation of God.

**Come, Lord Jesus, come! Be born anew in
our world and in our lives.**

*HYMN #79 (Hymnal United Church of Christ)

"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus" C. Wesley

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you.

Our world worships the power that acts quickly
through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for
the power of your rule which comes slowly
through love.

We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign
of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of
violence, hatred, and injustice. We leave little
room for you to act in our lives.

We turn now to you in repentance and openness to
your Spirit. Forgive us, And show us how to
clear a path for you.

Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on
earth. Amen

SILENCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

OUR RESPONSE *"Gloria, Gloria"* #756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria alleluia, alleluia!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

ADVENT SONG *"O Come, Advent"* video

O come and be the hope in all our lives
Though chaos and confusion still survive
We know the path of hate all too well
We need our God with us, Emmanuel!
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

O come and bring your peace upon the earth
That even now still longs for its rebirth
We seek to live and move in your ways
Guide us to peace and justice all our days
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us
And all things shall be well

Candle Lighting Ritual³ (Luke 3:1-6) Haylee Erickson
When conflict seems never-ending, relationships rocky,
When we want to deny and pretend,
The Holy invites us to make space for truth-telling
That we may find Peace
(*Light candle of Peace*)

Where in the world do we find Peace these days?

CHILDRENS' TIME "*Let There be Peace*"

THE SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

MEDITATION Pastor Jacoba Koppert
"Guided into the Way of Peace"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

PRAYER OF CONSECRATING

Emmanuel, God with us,
in the hopes and fears of all our years,
we come for comfort,

for peace of mind and peace on earth,
for a blessing on our hands and the Bread in
them, on our lips and the Cup we lift to drink.
(*in silence— breaking, touching or lifting the
Bread, pouring, touching or lifting the Cup*)
**May this Bread and Cup
be all your holy life,
that we may ponder in our hearts,
and pray in our community ...**

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

The Holy Child of Bethlehem descends to us,
and is born in us in these days.

Let us share the bread.

**We hear Christmas angels
their great glad tidings tell.**

Let us drink deeply for in every time
Christ abides with us.

**In every time and every place
Christ abides *in* us.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Peace-giver, Blesser of tables, we rise from our
places at this most welcoming meal. We are
encouraged to live in faith, hope and love.
Amen

THE BENEDICTION

RESPONSE #76 vs 3

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" G.Weissel

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
Our hearts to thee we open wide;
Let us thy inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in us reveal.

POSTLUDE

Karen Mohr

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We highly recommend everyone attending services to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

****We are in need of people to host coffee fellowship after Sunday worship. Please contact church office with questions on duties or to sign up.****

Announcements

We welcome you to our service of worship!

We are glad that you have joined us in-person, through the internet or on the radio.

We pray that you will experience the love of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

RADIO BROADCAST

11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN 98.5FM and 1370AM

This week's radio broadcast is sponsored by a faithful listener

- **Tuesday, December 7 –
10:30 am Neillsville Retirement Community ?
1:00 pm Bible Study**
- **Thursday, December 9 –
12:00 pm Circle of Friends**

CHOIR – will continue practice for the Christmas Season every Thursday at 6 pm. We are asking those who love to sing please call Corrine Armitage (715-743-4747)



We are now **taking orders for poinsettias** from Falls Florist for our sanctuary's Christmas Eve Services. You can choose between white or red poinsettias this year. The price is \$15.00 and they can be ordered in honor, in memory or for any other reason you may have. They can be taken home after the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Please make your check out to Falls Florist. Thank you for your orders. Deadline for ordering will be December 12th

Name: _____

In honor of / In memory of white / red (please circle one)

Name: _____

In honor of / In memory of white / red (please circle one)
