

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

The SECOND Week of Advent: PEACE

December 10, 2023 at 10 am

*“The morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of **peace**.” (Luke 1:78-79)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #9: “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *[Refrain]*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *[Refrain]*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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HYMN #44: “O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

God of all Peace:

**In this Advent season we prepare our hearts
to welcome Christ, the bringer of all peace.**

**We confess to you the ways in which
we block the peace of Christ in our lives:
The rushing and scurrying to get things done;
The worry about the little details;**

**The financial burdens we put on ourselves;
The impatience and irritability we feel and take out on one another;
The bickering and quarreling we get into because we are too busy;
we confess to you, O God of peace.**

**Though we make ourselves less than peaceful at this time of the year,
your peace is always there for us.**

**When we feel overwhelmed,
When we are filled with worry,
When we become irritable,
instill within us your peace, O God.**

**When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,
help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.**

**Instill within us your peace, O God;
Instill within us your peace
and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.**

**Help us to be more peaceful
so we may spread Christ's peace and love to others. Amen.**

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

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HYMN #371: "LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
The Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *[Refrain]*

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
Bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died. *[Refrain]*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Your death has brought us life eternally. *[Refrain]*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory. *[Refrain]*

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: *"Ambassadors of the King"*

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. . . . Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

* *Please stand if you are able*

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DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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HYMN #29: "GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN"

*Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *[Refrain]*

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *[Refrain]*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *[Refrain]*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY** Second Sunday of Advent: Worship Service (10:00 am)
- Tuesday, Dec 12** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
- Thursday, Dec 14** Session (7:00 pm)
- Sunday, Dec 19** Third Sunday of Advent: Worship Service (10:00 am)
- Tuesday, Dec 19** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thursday, Dec 21** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Dec 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent: Worship Service (10:00)
Christmas Eve Family Service (5:00 pm)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (10:00 pm)