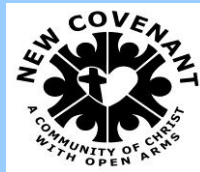




PEACE CAN'T WAIT

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
December 4, 2022                      Worship Service



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Middletown, DE 19709

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# The Worship of God

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Nancy Carol Willis

Sharing of Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude....



*Isaiah points to a peace this world has yet to know – peace where the wolf lies with the lamb and a child shall lead all of us. John the Baptist invites us to believe in this vision of peace, but first, we must repent of the ways which cause us to turn away from God and do harm to others and ourselves. Only through honest confession can we seek reconciliation and become vessels of God's peace and facilitators of the Kingdom of God drawn near.*

## Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

*The Second Week of Advent –*

*God's Promised Day of Repentance & Peace Can't Wait*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Alayne Fitzpatrick, Barbara Montazella & Pat Wright*



**Leader 1:** I will wait for the sky to clear.  
**Leader 2:** I will wait for the plot to thicken.  
**Leader 3:** I will wait for vacation to arrive.  
**Leader 1:** I will wait for snow to fall.  
**Leader 2:** I will wait for dinner to be ready.  
**Leader 3:** I will wait for you to be confident.  
**Leader 1:** I will wait for my child to walk.  
**Leader 2:** I will wait for the leaves to change.  
**Leader 3:** I will wait for the dust to settle.

**Leader 1:** *I waited for the lab results.*

**Leader 2:** I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

**Leader 3:** *I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for peace.*

**Leader 1:** This world is rampant with division, walls, grudge-holding, and self-doubt.

**Leader 2:** *I do not want to be a passive bystander in this world of division, when what God wants from us in unity in the midst of diversity.*

**Leader 3:** And so today we light the **Candle of Peace** as a reminder that God has a role for us to play. (*Light 2<sup>nd</sup> candle.*)

**Leader 1:** *May the desire to sow PEACE kindle in us like a light in the darkness.*

**ALL:** *Amen!*

### Opening Prayer

*Loving God, you tell us to Prepare the Way! Do you want us to deck the halls and light the candles? What exactly do you mean by "prepare the way"? Should we open the doors and sing a song of hope? Prepare the way, you tell us. Maybe we should make space in our hearts for a new kind of love. The main thing you want is for us to understand that Christ is coming, and so, please direct all that we do to prepare that we might show Christ honor as we prepare the way for him. Amen.*

**\*Hymn of Praise # 2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*1-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 every nation, joy of every longing heart.*



*2-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 Confession

**Creator God, not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be peacemakers and advocates, listeners, and good Samaritans. Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend to a stranger, and a neighbor to those in need. Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be the people you call us to be, and yet, day after day, we lose sight of your HOPE for this world. Forgive us for walking a different path and grant us the strength to prepare a new way – YOUR WAY – RIGHT HERE IN THIS PLACE. We come before you with gratitude for your providence, asking for your guidance. And now, holy God, we turn to you in silent prayer to share our concerns and to seek your forgiveness.....Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon

**L:** We have heard the voice of one calling in the wilderness -

**P:** **Calling us to confess our sins, which we have done.**

**L:** Therefore, let us rejoice that, through Christ, we are forgiven!

**P:** **Thanks be to God!**

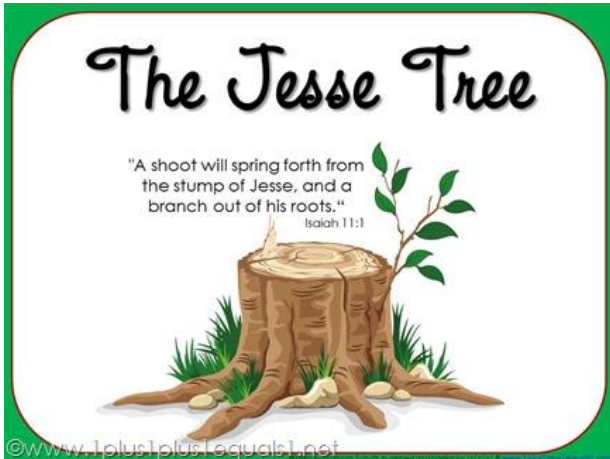
# Meeting God in the Word

## Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

**First Lesson**     *Isaiah 11: 1-10*

*Life in the Kingdom of God*

*Lay Leader*



*A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.*

*He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he*

*shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

*The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** *Thanks be to God.*

## Special Music

**Second Lesson**

*Matthew 3: 1-12*

*John the Baptist's Proclamation*

*Carol*

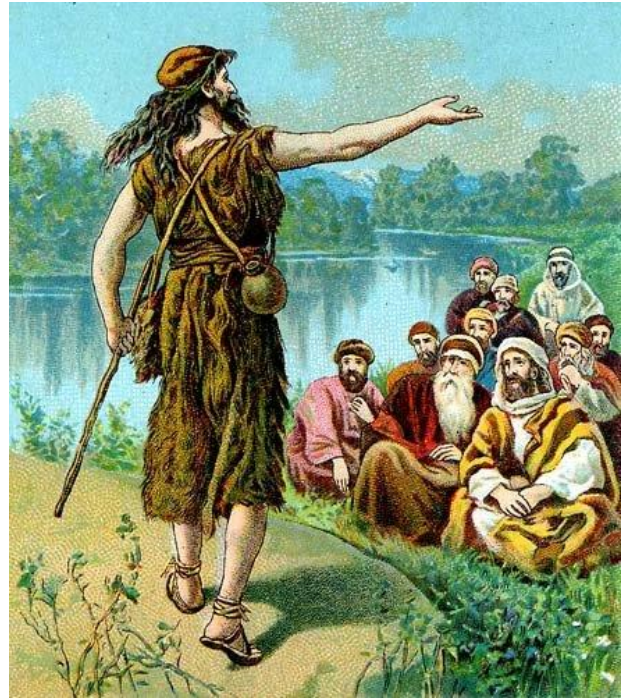
*In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."'*

*Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.*



*But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

*'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'*



**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** *Thanks be to God.*

## Sermon

*Peace Can't Wait*

# Responding to the Word

## \*Hymn

*On This Day of Celebration*

Sung to tune of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, #464

*1-On this day of celebration, at this time when hopes are new,  
God, we gather as your people, called to put our trust in you.  
You have made the world we live in; you have worked through history,  
In your plan we find our purpose, in your love, our unity.*

*2-Long ago, you sent a Savior to our world in deep despair.  
In your Word made flesh you came, our life to know, our sins to bear.  
Christ has died and Christ is risen! At this new year we proclaim:  
Yesterday, today, forever – Jesus Christ is still the same!*

*3-Through two thousand years of changes, through these passing centuries,  
You have called your church to witness to Christ's love that claims and frees.  
Each new generation hears you, each must find a fresh new way  
To make known the life you offer, to the people in their day.*

## \*Litany of Faith

L: During the season of Advent, we celebrate the coming of the Promised One – the One in whom dwells the Spirit of God.

**P: *The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,***

L: The Spirit of counsel and might,

**P: *The Spirit of knowledge and awe.***

**A: *Let us bear witness to your fulfillment of this promise in Jesus, O God, by letting the Spirit that was in him, be in us also.***

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

## The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

*Prayer of Dedication: God of peace and love, thank you for our blessings. Let us not take them for granted, but give thanks for each and every one of them. And give us generous and joyful hearts that we would share from our blessings. Amen.*

## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Elements

The Prayer of Thanksgiving



## Going Out to Serve

\*Hymn of Praise # 9      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



*1-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!*

*2-O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*3-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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

### **Blessing**

- L: We are on an Advent journey toward Bethlehem, where God will reveal the glory of heaven and the hope of earth to us.
- P:** *May the light of God's glory brighten our path and may the brilliance of the hope we receive beckon us to new beginnings.*
- L: May the blessings...

### **Response**

Rewrite of the refrain of *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
*O Come Let Us Adore Him #41*

*O let us go and serve him,  
O let us go and serve him.  
O let us go and serve him,  
Christ, the Lord.*