

**New Covenant Presbyterian Church**

**December 5, 2021**

**Worship Service**



**1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709**

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# The Worship of God

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

### Part 10 of Sailboat Church Series

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Our Vision

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

*In the season of Advent, we expect to hear, at least in the distance, the lilting strains of Christmas carols. We do not expect to hear the measured notes of the old Gospel hymn Just As I Am, Without One Plea. And yet, as Christians, we are called to welcome one another, just as we are, for that is how God has welcomed us. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to welcome others just as they are, with no strings attached. As we prepare for the advent of Christ into our lives, let us examine our hearts to see if we really believe God loves us just as we are. And then let us accept and love others in the same way.*

## Preparing to Meet God

#### Introit

*On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing*

Bell Choir

#### Call to Worship

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath      Wreath Lighters:*



L: The second candle is the candle of PEACE. Peace is the gift of God – the assurance that we are right with God.

P: ***It was of peace that the angels sang as their great light filled the heavens, and the shepherds learned of the Christmas gift of God in Jesus Christ.***

L: Jesus told us that the peace he gives us is a peace which can be found in no other place or from any other person. It is wholeness – health – and life itself.

P: ***Jesus Christ is our Peace – Peace on earth, God now come to earth – good will to those with whom he is pleased. God, make us peaceful, we pray. (The second candle is lit).***

L: May God's peace dwell within us and around us.

#### Response

*He Came Down*

*He came down that we may have peace. He came down that we may have peace.*

*He came down that we may have peace. Hallelujah forevermore.*

#### \*Hymn of Praise

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

# 2

*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

***Prince of peace, your name is to be hallowed as supreme, and so we pray that you would forgive us when we fail to honor you in our daily lives. In our society, the name of Santa Claus sometimes obscures the name of the Christ Child, and the hammering of elves making toys drowns out the song of the angels. Looking for reindeer flying through the air competes with modeling our behavior after the shepherds, who sought the Christ Child. Pardon us as we have let such things get out of hand, and help us to honor you as the King of kings. 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:** Friends, hear the Good News: The One who started the good work in you will bring it to completion.

**P:** ***We give thanks that, because of Christ, we have the Good News that we are forgiven!***

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

*Philippians 1: 3-11 Paul's Prayer for the Philippians*

Lay Leader

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.*

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

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

#### Special Music

*Emmanuel Is Coming!*

Choir

#### Second Lesson

*Luke 3: 1-6*

*The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

Carol



*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He 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. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'*

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

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

Sermon

Season Your Giving

# Responding to the Word

\*Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

#422

1-God, whose giving knows no ending,  
 From your rich and endless store,  
 Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
 Costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
 Gifted by you, we turn to you,  
 Offering up ourselves in praise;  
 Thankful song shall rise forever,  
 Gracious donor of our days.

2-Skills and time are ours for pressing,  
 Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
 All at peace in health and freedom,  
 Races joined, the church made one.  
 Now direct our daily labor,  
 Lest we strive for self alone;  
 Born with talents, make us servants  
 Fit to answer at your throne.

3-Treasure too you have entrusted,  
 Gain through powers your grace conferred;  
 Ours to use for home and kindred,  
 And to spread the gospel Word.  
 Open wide our hands, in sharing,  
 As we heed Christ's ageless call,  
 Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
 Serving you by loving all.

## 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

*God provided all that we need, and so we are called to return a portion of our blessings to God to be used in God's service. We so appreciate all that each of you shares for our church's ministry. May we all give sacrificially for God's glory.*

# Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**The Invitation and Prayer of Consecration**

**The Words of Institution**

**The Sharing of the Elements**

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving**



# Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn

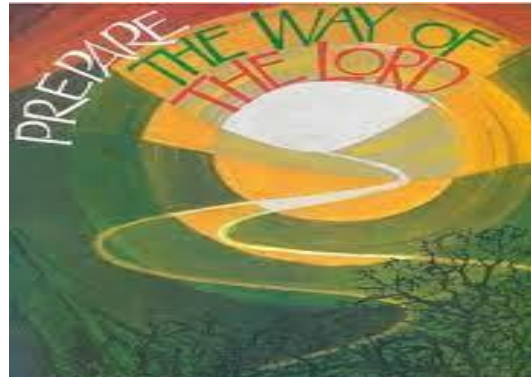
*Prepare the Way*

# 13

1-Prepare the way, O Zion,  
Your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley,  
A level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

2-Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;  
He comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
And justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
For grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

3-Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
Your Savior's rule embrace.  
And tidings of salvation  
Proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
Their adoration voicing.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.



## Blessing

L: Go in the name of the Savior, who came lifting our shame by his supreme gift.

**P: We will go in the light of God's love which gives us sight, showing us how to live.**

L: Go in God's grace, aware that his face smiles as you travel in his footsteps. And may the blessings...

## Response

*He Is Lord - He is Lord, he is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*