

**WHAT
CAN'T
WAIT**



New Covenant Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2022

Worship Service



1125 Jamison Corner Rd., Middletown, DE 19709

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The Worship of God

1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Donna Casey

Sharing of Our Vision

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



Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting truly what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together - what things can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it for which God can't wait? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, let us join together in imagining and prioritizing and preparing. As

*we wait together, may we reflect on **what can't wait**.*

We may wonder what exactly can't wait. Maybe it's hope for a better day. If not, perhaps it is peace and repentance, among and within us. Or maybe it's joy and delight because our cup runs over. What can't wait? It is love for self – love for neighbors – love for our Creator – and love for creation. Our God is waiting and ready to meet us. Starting here and now, let us worship our Holy God with joyful anticipation. Amen.

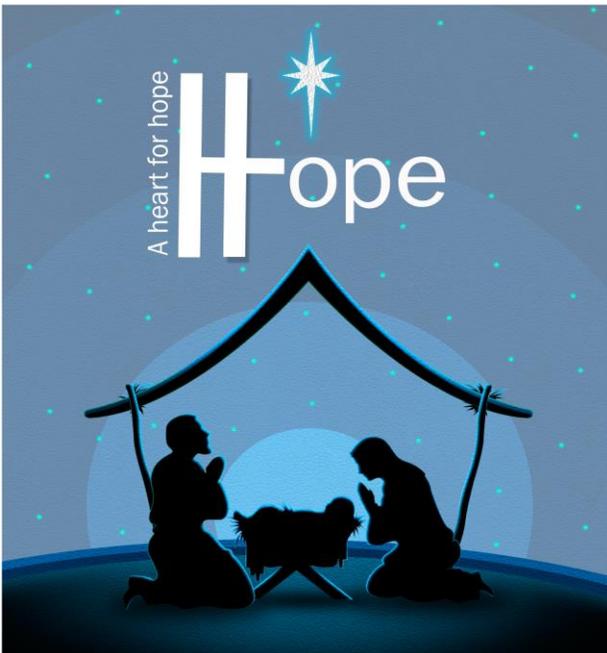
Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

The First Week of Advent – God's Promised Day Can't Wait

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Wreath Lighters: Win and Barbara Bookhart



Leader 1: I will wait for coffee to brew.

Leader 2: I will wait for traffic to clear.

Leader 1: I will wait for fruit to ripen.

Leader 2: I will wait for flowers to grow and bloom.

Leader 1: I will wait for seasons to change.

Leader 2: I will wait for the sun to rise and set.

Leader 1: I will wait for someone who hurt my feelings to say "Sorry."

Leader 2: I will wait for the doctor to call.

Leader 1: I will wait for the weekend to arrive.

Leader 2: I waited for my baby's first words.



Leader 1: I will wait for Christmas to arrive.

Leader 2: *I will wait for a lot of things, but I will not wait for hope.*

Leader 1: I cannot wait for hope, because I want to live with HOPE - today and every day.

Leader 2: *I want to roll my sleeves up and get to work - living, serving, giving, and doing my part to transform the world into the one God imagined.*

Leader 1: And so today we light the Candle of Hope as a reminder and a prayer that we might **stop** waiting and **start** living, **stop** watching and **start** moving.

Leader 2: *May the light of this candle burn inside us this week, inspiring hope and action that we might help to create the new life God promised for humanity.*

ALL: *Amen!*

Opening Prayer

Loving God, sometimes it seems like HOPE is gravity for those of us who are broken, and it pulls us up. It is like manna in the wilderness when we want to give up. Your hope, O God, reminds us that beautiful stars fill the sky, and you created them for our pleasure. Hope is the anthem of faith and the reason we are gathered here to worship you. We come before you this day, bringing our hopes and fears, for we know that you are here to listen. God of love, we give you thanks that you offer us the gift of new life and we come to worship and praise you this day. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise #13

Prepare the Way

*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.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you paint a picture of a better world – a world of peace and joy, of equality and grace. But we turn our heads and close our eyes, afraid that you might want us to help. You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent. You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet. You ask us to listen, and we assume that we are the experts. You lead us with love, and we wait on the sidelines. Forgive us for always being ten steps behind you. Forgive us for all the ways we are works “in progress.” Fill our hearts with a hope that won't let go. Gratefully, we pray, O Lord. 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: Do not be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing, comfort, and hope.

P: **We are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways. Let us rejoice for God's Spirit is always with us!**

L: Believe the Good News of the Gospel –

P: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson *Isaiah 2: 1-5*

The Future House of God

Lay Leader



The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

Second Lesson

Romans 13: 11-14

An Urgent Appeal

Carol



Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

God's Purpose in Advent

Responding to the Word

*Hymn Insert

God Is Working His Purpose Out

*1-God is working his purpose out
As year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
And the time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with
the glory of God
As the water cover the sea.*

*2-From utmost east to utmost west,
Where'er man's foot hath trod.
By the mouth of many messengers
Goes forth the voice of God:
"Give ear to me, ye continents,
Ye isles, give ear to me,
That the earth may be filled with the
Glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.*

*3-March we forth in the strength of God;
With the banner of Christ unfurled,
That the light of the glorious gospel of truth
May shine throughout the world;
Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin
To set their captives free,
That the earth may be filled with the
glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.*

*4-All we can do is nothing worth
Unless God blesses the deed;
Vainly we hope for the harvest tide
Till God gives life to the seed;
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
The time that surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the
glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.*

*Litany of Faith

L: The Lord does not call us to conform to the demands of the world.

P: *The Lord calls us to transform the world by our obedience to the demands of the gospel*

L: When our neighbors curse us, let us not curse them in return.

P: Let us love as you love, O Lord. Let our love be genuine.

L; When our neighbors seek our help, let us not leave them abandoned.

P: *Let us love as you love, O Lord. Let our love be genuine.*

L: When our neighbors disturb the peace at our expense, let us not avenge ourselves.

P: *Let us love as you love, O Lord. Let our love be genuine.*

L: When our neighbors hunger or thirst, let us minister to them according to their need.

P: *Let us love as you love, O Lord. Let our love be genuine.*

A: *Let us not be overcome by evil. Let us overcome evil with good.*

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: Holy and loving God, we give you thanks for all the ways you provide for us. And so, this day, we come before you to share our blessings to be used for the ministry of this church. May all that we do and say bring honor to your name. Amen.

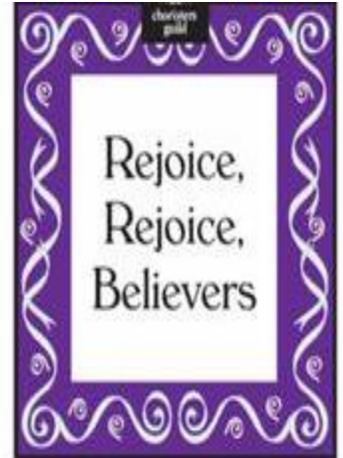
Going Out to Serve

Closing Hymn #15 *Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

*1-Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh;
Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.*

*2-See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is awaiting, the gates wide open stand;
Arise, O heirs of glory, the bridegroom is at hand!*

*3-Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!*



Blessing

L: Go forth and begin the journey of Advent.

P: ***We will begin our preparations being aware of inviting Christ into the midst of them, and remembering that ALL we really need to do is make room for Christ in our hearts.***

L: 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.