2nd Sunday in Advent: Peace



10 A. M. Worship for Sunday, December 10, 2023

First Memorial Presbyterian Church of Dover, New Jersey

***Gathering and Focusing during Prelude:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

***Thank you for choosing to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with us today!***

***\*We invite you to stand if you are able for those portions of the liturgy marked with an asterisk.***

xx

***Sung Approach to Worshiping Our God:*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

All:*VERSE 1:* ***Watchman, tell us of the night,***

***What its signs of promise are.***

***Traveler, o’er yon mountain’s height,***

***See that glory beaming star.***

***Watchman, does its beauteous ray***

***Aught of joy or hope foretell?***

***Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.***

- Words by John Bowring, 1825. Now in the public domain.,

***Opening Words:* - Rachel Persenaire**

Rachel: A voice cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord; make God’s way clear. **(**Isaiah 40:3-5)

All: ***Lift up every valley; lower every mountain.***

***For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”***

- The Opening Words (above) are as found on page 7. of Feasting on the Word, Worship Companion

© 2014, by WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS, Louisville, KY. All rights reserved. Used with the permission.

**Second Sunday LIGHT OF GRACE Advent Wreath Candle**

Leader 1: Today we light the second of our Advent candles, the candle of peace.

(LIGHT two purple candles)

Leader 1: We may be afraid at times,

because we live in a world filled with violence.

We may become caught up in personal struggles and family quarrels.

We need the peace that only Jesus can bring.

All: ***Lord, grant us your peace.***

Leader 2: The prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of the promised Messiah,

the child who would be called the Prince of Peace.

He would rule over all things,

and there would be no end to his kingdom of peace.

All: ***Lord, grant us your peace.***

Leader 3: Jesus was born to bring us peace,

the peace that comes through the forgiveness of our sins,

the peace that the world can never give,

peace that Jesus alone brings.

All: ***Lord, grant us your peace.***

***Choral Anthem:*** “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” – Wayne L. Wold

***Call to Confession:***

Alan**:** Let us confess our sins to God, trusting in his mercy

for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Let us pray as with one voice…

***Corporate Prayer of Confession:***

All: ***Almighty God, even though you grant us your peace,***

***we often destroy that peace by causing strife.***

***We quarrel with others and condemn them.***

***We pursue our own selfish interests***

***instead of showing love to others.***

***We turn away from the guidance of your holy Word.***

***Have mercy on us, forgive our sins and grant us your peace.***

***Amen…***

*(We pause here for a few moments of silent, personal confession…)*

***Assurance of Pardon:***

Alan: God sent his son, the Prince of Peace, to be our savior.

Jesus shed his precious, innocent blood,

suffering the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins.

I announce to you that your sins ARE forgiven

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

All: ***Jesus, Prince of Peace,***

***rule in our hearts with the peace that you alone can bring.***

- The Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon (above) are as found on pages

33 & 36. of THE LIGHT OF GRACE by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc. Written by Carol Geisler.

***\*Hymn of Praise No. 48:*** – German Carol, 15th century

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

***\*A Historic Confession of Faith:***

All: ***I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty,***

***creator of heaven and earth.***

***I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, God’s only Son, our Lord,***

***who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,***

***suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,***

***and was buried; he descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again;***

***He ascended into heaven,***

***he is seated at the right hand of the Father,***

***and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, the holy catholic Church,***

***The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,***

***The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

- THE APOSTLES’ CREED (Ecumenical Translation)

***\*Celebrating the Peace Jesus Came to Bring:***

**- Rev. Alan R. Schaefer**

Alan: “The days are surely coming” says the Lord,

“when I will fulfill my promise:

I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David;

and he shall execute justice and righteousness.

All: ***He shall bring peace to our hearts,***

***that we may hope for his peace in the world.***

Alan: The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: ***And also with you!***

Alan: Without moving from where you now stand,

please take the next few moments to share a warm greeting

and a sincere sign of God’s peace with those around you.

***Children’s Message:*** **- Megan Quinones**

***Sung Prayer for Illumination:***   - Clara H. Scott, 1895

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

1. ***Open my eyes, that I may see***

***Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.***

***Place in my hands the wonderful key***

***That shall unclasp and set me free.***

Refrain: ***Silently now, I wait for Thee, Ready my God,***

***Thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

1. ***Open my ears, that I may hear Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;***

***And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear.***

Refrain: ***Silently now, I wait for Thee, Ready my God,***

***Thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

1. ***Open my mouth, and let me bear Gladly the warm truth everywhere;***

***Open my heart and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.***

Refrain: ***Silently now, I wait for Thee, Ready my God,***

***Thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!***

- Words & Music by Clara H. Scott, 1895—Now in the public domain**. Hymn No 324 in THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL**

***Scripture Lesson:* - Megan Quinones**

***The Book of Isaiah***

***chapter 9: verses 1 thru 7***

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church… -** Revelation 2:7

1 **But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish.**

**In the former time he brought into contempt**

**the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,**

**but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea,**

**the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.**

2 **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;**

**those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

3  **You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;**

**they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,**

**as people exult when dividing plunder.**

4 **For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,**

**the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

5 **For all the boots of the tramping warriors**

**and all the garments rolled in blood**

**shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

6 **For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;**

**authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named**

**Wonderful Counselor Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

7 **His authority shall grow continually,**

**and there shall be endless peace**

**for the throne of David and his kingdom.**

**He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness**

**from this time onward and forevermore.**

**The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

- THE NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (of the Bible-a translation)

© 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. All rights reserved.

Megan:**This is the Word of the Lord…**

All: ***Thanks be to God!***

***Adult Message: “Peace”* - Michael Hoy**

***Call for the Offering and Prayer of Dedication:***

Alan:We are grateful to have you with us as we worship together

on this Second Sunday in Advent;

and we hope you will be stewardship partners with us

in our ministry here and around the world

as you have been partners with us in our worship,

whether here, in our sanctuary,

or somewhere safe or convenient to you on your computer.

If you worshiped with us on your computer, and are able

and willing, please consider mailing an offering to our church

office this week @ 51 West Blackwell Street, Dover NJ 07801.

*Invitation to the offering:*

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

May your righteousness go before God

and prepare a pathway for the Lord.

Let us offer our lives and labor to God

and fulfil our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray together…

All: **Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ**

**your steadfast love and faithfulness have met**

**and your righteousness and peace have kissed.**

**May the gifts we offer this week**

**lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation.**

***Amen.***

- The Invitation to the Offering & Prayer of Dedication (as above) are as found on page 9

of Feasting On the Word, Liturgies for Year B, vol.1.

© 2013, by WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS, Louisville, KY. All rights reserved. Used with the permission.

***Offertory: “ Of the Father’s Love Begotten”*** **- Rachel Persenaire**

***Joys and Concerns:***

***Prayers of and for the People and Lord’s Prayer:***

Alan**:**

… which we gladly follow with Jesus’ prayer when he taught us to pray…- Written by Alan R. Schaefer

All: ***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name…***

***\*Hymn of Parting No. 20:*** – John Bowring, 1825

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

***\*Charge and Benediction:***

Alan:**(**I charge you to…) …keep awake,

for you do not know the day or the hour of our Lord’s return.

Let us all be found ready and expectant when that time comes.

Now, may the Lord of peace himself give you peace

at all times in every way.

The Lord be with you all.

Amen?

All: ***Amen.***

- The Benediction (above) is as found on page 39 of The Light of Grace.

© 2023, by CREATIE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH, Fenton, MO, Louisville, KY. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

***Postlude:* - Rachel Persenaire**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Unless otherwise noted, most of the bulletin / liturgy is written by the Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Alan R. Schaefer, H. R.



**OUR NEXT CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**IS *CHRISTMAS* EVE, DECEMBER 24th AT 6:00 p. m.**

**OUR NEXT LORD’S DAY CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE ON JANUARY 7, 2023.**

**FIRST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CONGREGATION**

**51 West Blackwell Street, Dover, NJ 07801**

**A member congregation of Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey,**

**The Synod of the Northeast, and**

**The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.**

’

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who has filled a shoe box, paid to ship a shoe box, or prayed for the recipients of our shoe boxes. These boxes will truly have an impact on many children’s lives and bring the love of God to many parts of the world.

**DID YOU KNOW**: Since the first year of this ministry, 209 million children have received a box in 170 countries and territories. Since 2009 35.4 million children have engaged in the discipleship program that is offered after they received their box and 17.4 million children have made the decision to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior,