



First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood Online Worship
including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
2nd Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

**As today's service includes communion, you are invited to prepare bread and cup to partake when directed during the sacrament later in the worship.*

PRELUDE

THE WELCOME & SHARING OF CHURCH LIFE

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

The Lord is near! Prepare the way of the Lord!

All people everywhere, let us make ready to enter God's Presence.

For the Lord is holy, pure, and righteous.

God's glory fills this place.

Let us enter His Presence with humility and reverence.

The Lord is near! Prepare the way of the Lord!

HYMN #106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

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 who came in God's most holy name.

2 He 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 who 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 who came in God's most holy name

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

"Hope is a Star"

(verse 2)

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child, there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first, and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of our salvation,
You sent Your messengers the prophets to preach repentance
and prepare the way of our salvation.
In our stubbornness we have not fully given heed
to their warnings and have not forsaken our sins.
We humble ourselves before your Majestic Presence.
Give us grace to heed Your Word and forsake our sins.
Because of Your great compassion and mercy,
do not abandon us. For Your Name sake, forgive us.**
(silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

"Glory be to God"

Glo-ry be to God and to the Christ and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men. A - men.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:3-5

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

"Prepare"

The Rev. Anthony Rivera

HYMN #87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

- 1 “Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.”
- 2 For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.
- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & PASTORAL PRAYER
THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

RESPONSE #95

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
They will come from east and west,
And from north and south,
And sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke,
When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples,
He took the bread, and blessed and broke it,
And gave it to them.
Then their eyes were opened
And they recognized him.

This is the Lord's table.
Our Savior invites those who trust him
To share the feast which he has prepared.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

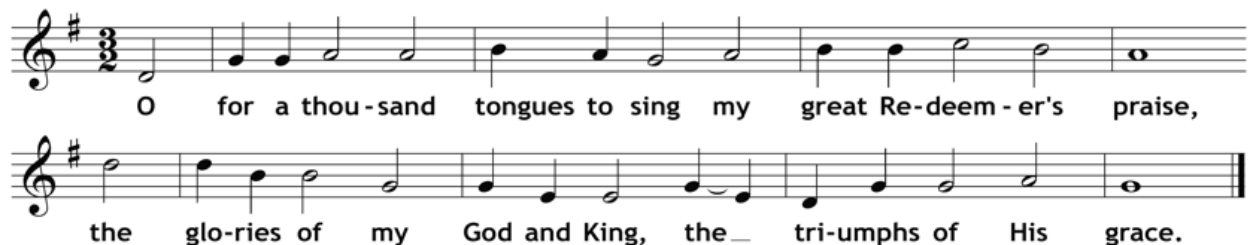
The God who is coming to us be with you!

And also with you!

Lift your hearts to the One who turns barren deserts into seas of grace.

We lift them to the Lord!

Beloved of God, let us come to the table with songs of joy on our lips:



O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of His grace.

It is right to give you thanks and praise,
Great God of the coming dawn,
for in each new day you surprise the earth with splendor.
Your Spirit moves across the face of the waters and brings forth life.
At the dawn of all things in a garden you worked the earth.
Elbow deep in mud you fashioned us, gifted us, gave us work to do.

**Made from the earth, made by your hand,
We forgot who we were
We forgot who you were
and we tried to remake ourselves.
We rejected your love and fell into sin and death.**

Yet even in our darkness you continued to speak light and life.
And so we come to live on the edge of your new and promised day.



We come to wait for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord
His coming was announced by wilderness prophets
and he arrived to the song of angels in the choir stall of a manger.
In Jesus you not only took our name but our flesh.

**He was the One promised
He announced the new day and the acceptable year
When blind folks would see
And poor folks would rejoice
When captives would be set free
And the oppressed would once more walk upright in liberty.**

In parables he spoke of waiting bridesmaids and prodigal sons,
With tears and compassion he brought a dead man to life
and gave a woman at a well the living water she sought.
On the cross he revealed the power of weakness
and in the emptiness of the tomb
he gave us a glimpse of life that does not end in death.
We offer our praise and thanks and our very selves
as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.



May the gift of your Spirit, Advent's hope and peace,
be poured out on the simple gifts of the bread and the cup.
And when we have been fed by your surprising grace
and filled with your peace, may we go forth to the world,

**where our weak hands will become calloused by compassion;
where we will bend our feeble knees,
reaching down to lift up the fallen and share your word of hope and salvation;
where we will become instruments of living water
for those parched by the wilderness of their lives.**

Then, when sorrow and sighing have been chased away from us,
and we gather with all generations around your Table in heaven,
everlasting joy will be our song, and gracious hope will be our refrain,
as we sing to you through all eternity, God in Community, Holy in One.



BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is shared.

You are invited to partake of the bread and cup from your homes when directed to do so.

CONCLUDING PRAYER (unison)

**We give thanks for the meal, and for the promise that one day
all of the redeemed will enter into the festival hall of God's eternal kingdom.
When Emmanuel comes, the redeemed will eat and be satisfied,
none shall want for anything. Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come soon, we pray! Amen.**

RESPONSE #91 "Come, Come, Emmanuel"

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

INVITATION TO RECEIVE OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN "All Earth is Waiting"

1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participants in this worship service:

The Rev. Anthony Rivera, pastor
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music
Sunny Sakai, pianist
Elder John Foster, videographer

Music presented with permission under CCLI License #1381818

This service may be found posted on our website at www.fpcedgewood.org,
on our **YouTube channel**, or audio only on our SoundCloud channel at
www.soundcloud.com/fpcedgewood



*Believing we are called together by God's love through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood is to
love God, to love each other, and to love our neighbors.*

