



**Seventh & James Baptist Church
December 8, 2024 · 11:00 a.m.
The Second Sunday of Advent**

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“I Wonder as I Wander”

John Jacob Niles,
arr. Daniel Kelley

Ann Shoemaker, *bassoon*
Michael Clark, *piano*

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Lesley and Scott McAllister
Jonathan, Cooper, and Camden McAllister

Turbulent times face us, with unfettered and endless wars dominating coverage. Every day we see the devastation increase exponentially. We're afraid for the plight of humanity, the senseless destruction, and the inevitability that harm hits home soon because it seems that there are no more peacemakers. In the light of this second Advent candle, though, God is illuminating the Way of peace that lies ahead of us, dispelling our fears of a troubled world overwhelmed by war, and meeting us in the midst of it all with the Prince of Peace.

— Alec Ylitalo, *Sacred Seasons*,
Seeds of Hope Publishers, Advent/Christmastide 2024

Welcome and Call to Worship

Matt Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Processional Hymn, No. 83

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Litany of Peace

Bryce Shelton

One: Peace...the illusive white rabbit we too often chase trying to be more efficient, more determined, more dedicated to our to-do lists, but it only runs faster, screaming behind its fluffy tail, “You’re late! You’re late for a very important date!”

Many: Lord, treat us like the sheep of the Psalmist and make us lie down by the still waters and lead us to the green grass of your Peace.

One: But our frantic chaos is a luxury compared to the madness so many experience in our world. Too many are listening to the cries of their hungry children, too many are sleeping in refugee tents and under bridges, too many are hiding behind couches from abusive partners, too many are looking for safe places to hide in case the shooting starts, too many are afraid to drive at night or walk in their neighborhood because of the hue of their skin, too many are filled with hatred for people they don’t know and want to fight for reasons they don’t understand.

Many: Prince of Peace, come into our world and put an end to our warring insanity, our selfish hoarding, our fearful wall-building, our violent “solutions,” our still deadly racism, our mindless inheriting of hate.

One: We need peace. We need it in moments that take our breath away as well as a deep foundation for our hearts and minds. We need to breathe deeply the peace of your grace and presence and embrace the work laid out before us as you call us to make peace for all of our neighbors.

All: Calm our whirring minds and help us to walk deliberately in your Peace.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Bryce Shelton

Celebration through Music

“Magnificat”

Taylor Scott Davis

My soul magnifies the Lord. And my spirit has rejoiced in God my savior.

For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:

For behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he who is mighty has done great things to me; and holy is his name.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Mary Landon Darden

Hymn, No. 79

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Responsive Reading of Luke 1:68-79

Scott Turner

One: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Many: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

One: As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Many: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,

One: The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

Many: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

One: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

Choral Offertory

“Et misericordia”

And his mercy is on them who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud, even the arrogant of heart.

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology

(Sung to Veni Emmanuel, tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Children’s Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children’s Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:30-38

Erin Conaway

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Erin Conaway

Reflection through Music

“Shall I Rejoice”

Terry York, text

Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, the first of such to say?
All that this child shall ever say or be now lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, his name forever mine?
I yield to him my life’s identity; Christ lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, both glory and disgrace?
My song shall be both joy and agony; Christ lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me, as clouds and shadows rise?
I ponder scenes that I don’t want to see. Christ lives and grows in me.

Silent Reflection

Epistle Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

Robert Darden

Hymn of Commitment, No. 96

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God’s grace. Amen.

Choral Benediction

“Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Postlude

“From Heaven Above”

(VOM HIMMEL HOCH)
Wilbur Held

Today at Seventh

Orchestra

Flute

Charlotte Daniel

Oboe

Eury Alvarez

Clarinet

Scott McAllister

Bassoon

Ann Shoemaker

Piano

Lydia Bratcher

Violin 1

Kristin Mortenson

Sue Jacobson

Amanda Schubert

Violin 2

Patricia Shih

Sydney Ebersohl

Nicholas Shih-Pogrebnoy

Viola

Nikita Pogrebnoy

Ben Cantrell

Cello

Chris Martin

Jackie Bustos

Bass

Tram Kelly

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Sally Lynn Askins.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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