

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**November 28, 2021**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES/CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from Isaiah 2:4*

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

**All: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**

Leader: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

**All: Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN**

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

85 v.1

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgement. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The wilderness will rejoice; the dry land will blossom. The people of God will return with joy and singing. Believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

582

*We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING***Jeremiah 29:1; 4-7*

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

**ANTHEM***We Wait**Bertie Spicker, Gay Piller, Joyce Counts, Paul Piller***SECOND READING***Jeremiah 29:8-14*

For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Ben Shaw

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH***Taken from the Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor, teaching by word and deed, calling all to repent and believe the Gospel, Jesus was unjustly condemned and crucified. God raised Jesus from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally good in God's image. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. God is faithful still. We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor. The same Spirit rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Savior, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ, and to live holy and joyful lives. With believers in every time and place, we

rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

*Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at [MPChurch.net](http://MPChurch.net).*

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

*In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **\*HYMN**

*Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

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### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.