

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
November 29, 2020
The First Sunday of Advent

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service will be posted on the church's Facebook page, on YouTube, and will be linked to the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Pam Koester, 322-8810
- Deacon of the Month: Sue Poulos, 376-1623

CALL TO WORSHIP

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of God endures forever.

Mark 13:31

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light the Advent candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

Psalm 96

We light this candle in hope. *(Light the first candle)*
The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us;
God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

Psalm 80

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.

Psalm 97

HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

GTG 102, v. 1

PRAYER

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION*Isaiah 64:6-9*

We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

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 judgment. 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 seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

From Isaiah 12:3-4 the prophet proclaims: "With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name." In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, fountain of every blessing,
open us to your life-giving word,
and fill us with your Holy Spirit
so that living water may flow through our heart –
a spring of hope for a thirsty world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING*1 Corinthians 1:3-9*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING

Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Daniel Watson

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Apostle Paul wrote to us and the church in Rome in Romans 15:13; "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
Alleluia!

POSTLUDE