

Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

December 10, 2023

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - Greensleeves - Cathy Moglebust

Introit - *An Advent Processional* – Pearson
(Congregation sings refrain on insert)

Call to Worship

Our feet are standing within your gates,
gladly we go up to the house of the Lord.
Here, God will teach us his ways,
and we shall not learn war anymore.

Opening Hymn 209** - *Blessed Be the God of Israel*

Invocation

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted. Let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the advent of the One who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Advent Candle Lighting

Roger and Judy Lewis

Lift Up Your Eyes - Joel Raney (sing on director's cue)

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins." (Isaiah 40:1)

We who gather today also seek peace with justice; unsatisfied with ideas of peace that means injustice for the weak, forgotten, or marginalized. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace. We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

We light these candles as signs of God's shocking hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Anthem - *Masters in This Hall* - William Spencer

Scripture Reading - Psalm 122:1, 5-79 (Old Testament p. 571/540)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gloria Patri (sung)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Children's Anthem - *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* - Trevor Manor

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading - Isaiah 2:1-4 (Old Testament p. 631/594)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon - *The Promise of Peace*

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response 215** - *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

Offertory - *Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme* (Hymn 720) - J. S. Bach
(Please fill out the attendance sheet found in the pew.)

Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayers of the People/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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith

Closing Hymn 211** - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Benediction and Congregational Response (Hymn 211)
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Postlude - *Fantasy on "Divinum Mysterium"* - Gerre Hancock



The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given
in loving memory of their son, James Ball, by Erv and LuAnne Ball.

Service Music: Chancel Ringers; Chancel Choir; Epworth Choir; Wesley Choir
Music: One License A-731491

NEXT STEPS

Ain't Gonna Learn War No More

Isaiah 2:4-5 – a beautiful vision of God's peace to come

If this is fulfilled in Jesus's birth, why is there not peace?

God's Holy Mountain

vs. 3 – we are taught God's ways that lead to life for us and others

Swords to Plowshares requires active un-learning of ways of death

Questions for Reflection: The peaceful image God gave to Isaiah, of swords being transformed into plows, challenges us still. A sword can be used for defense or offense; to wound, threaten and abuse or to protect.

Are there things in my life that I use to wound and harm others? My words? Withholding affection from someone? How might God transform these swords in my life from weapons into tools? Could I use words to build up and encourage? Could I use affection to help someone close to me heal? How might God be calling me this Advent to transform my swords into plowshares?

Question for Discussion: What does the vision of peace in Isaiah 2:1-4 provoke in you?

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 2:4* – “He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Readings for this Week: Isaiah 35:1-10, Isaiah 11:1-9, Matthew 5:38-48

CHURCH NOTES

St. Nicholas Brunch TODAY: The St. Nicholas Brunch will be served today from 9:30 a.m. - Noon in Wesley Hall. Donations will be accepted for the brunch. Crafts and pictures with Santa are from 9:30 - 10:30 and 11:30 - Noon. A winter hat and gloves or a \$5.00 donation to Family Promise are requested for each picture.

Are you new to First Church? Not new, but thinking about joining? We want to help you get connected through our Discipleship Pathway. Please let Pastor Pippin know you are interested and mark your calendar for an initial gathering today, at 9:45 in the parlor. You may reach him through the church office, or at fallsfirstpippin@gmail.com.

Holiday Nuts: The nut sale is back! You may purchase them between and after services on Sundays, in the office during the week, or you may pre-order and pick them up on the Sunday of your choice. We have Deluxe Mixed, whole cashews (both at \$10/lb.) and raw pecans (\$12/lb.) You may drop your order form off at the Welcome Center. Proceeds will benefit Work Camp.

Did You Know? Your pledges aren't automatically renewed from year to year. That's one reason it's important to return your pledge card. We appreciate everyone's giving throughout the year, but it helps us to have the pledge cards when it comes time to do the yearly budget and to make plans for programs, worship, and other opportunities for the coming year.

Chancel Ringers Christmas Concert: On Friday, December 15, at 7 pm the church's big Christmas program this year will be presented by our own Chancel Ringers Handbell Ensemble. This talented group of ringers is one of Ohio's finest ringing choirs, but we actually have never played a full concert here. In addition to the handbell selections, the audience will sing verses of favorite carols in between each of the songs.

Epworth Alumni: You are invited to come sing at the 8pm service on Christmas Eve with the Epworth Choir. We will sing All is Well and Were You There on that Christmas Night. If you were part of the Epworth choir in 2019 sang O Little Town of Bethlehem with Dan Forrest you are invited to join the Chancel Choir for that anthem as well.

ZOE Empowers: Our Christmas offering has gone to a different mission each year. This year it will go to ZOE Empowers, where it will be used to support a group of vulnerable orphans in Zimbabwe. ZOE uses an empowerment model rather than a traditional charity model. For more information, visit their website at www.zoeempowers.org.

ANTHEM

Masters in This Hall - William Spencer

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today. Brought from over sea and ever I you pray. *Chorus:* Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we clear! Holpen are all folk on Earth, born is God's Son so dear. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell sing we loud, God today hath poor folk raised and cast a-down the proud

Then to Bethle'm town, went we two by two, in a sorry place, heard the oxen low. *Chorus*

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad Christmas is come in, and no man should be sad. *Chorus*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice - Trevor Manor

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
DECEMBER 10, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Scott Adie	Scott Hipkins
Bob Ahonen	Lee Minier
Debbie Amundsen	Jack Nitzsche
Glenn Atwood	Pat Park
Behrman family	Kathi Sawyer
Jim Bailey	Christina Shaw
Bill & Janet Blank	Martha Shoults
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Ken Tunstall

DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Ann (Terry) Lewis and family on the death of her father, Thomas Misiak on 12/2.

Kathie (Jack) Davis & family on the death of her father, Robert Zimmerman on 11/25.

Family of member Bob Boyd on his death on 11/25.

Vic & Evelyn Ing on the death of their son, Michael Ing on 11/24.