

The Falls Village Congregational Church

November 27, 2022 10 a.m.

1st Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - *Air and Variations* - G. F. Handel

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship (from Psalm 122)

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem — built as a city that is bound firmly together.

To it the tribes go up, and the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you."

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers

Prayer of Adoration and for God's Presence (Unison):

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.

Hymn #125 "Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy God, remind us that you have formed us with your own hands, made us in your own image, and placed us in this world to be stewards of your good creation. Made for generous relationships, we have retreated into ourselves. Created for the purpose of making your goodness known, we allow lesser tasks to occupy our time. Forgive our failure to live in the way you made us to live. Renew within us the knowledge of your love so that we may live joyfully and gratefully,

sharing what we have. For we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who offered himself for us, and opens to us the way of eternal life.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Responsive Reading Psalm 24, p. 735

Gloria Patri

#35 in hymnal

Passing the Peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you

Let us pass the peace

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Ed and Suzan Kircher

New Testament Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

Rich Reifsnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "Thief in the Night"

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Musical Offering - *The King Shall Come* - D. Wagner

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Hymn #115 "There's Something About that Name"

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

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You are invited to place your offerings as you leave in the plate at either entrance to the church.

Come, O Long-expected Jesus 125

1. Come, O long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set your peo-ple free.
2. Born your peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring.

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-ri-ous throne.

Psalm 24

Fred R. Anderson
Traditional American melody

RESPONSE

Unison

The earth is God's, and the full-ness of
all the world and its peo-ple, the great and the small.

R

- 1 The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
- 2 for God has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
- 3 Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in God's holy place?
- 4 **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,**
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
- 5 They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
- 6 **Such is the company of those who seek God,**
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. R
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is the King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!
that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. R

1st Sunday in Advent – November 27, 2022
Lighting of Candle of Hope

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. This is the candle of HOPE.

With Christians around the world, we use this light to help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May we receive God's light as we hear the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined...for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his should and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.

Hymn #142, v. 1: People, Look East

Let us pray (unison):

Lord as we look to the birth of Jesus, grant that the light of your love for us will help us to become lights in the lives of those around us. Prepare our hearts for the joy and gladness of your coming, for Jesus is our hope. Amen.

MATTHEW 24:36-44

³⁶“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

There's Something About That Name 115

Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! There's just some-thing a - bout that

name! Mas - ter, Sav - ior, Je - sus! Like the fra - grance

af - ter the rain. Je - sus, Je - sus, Je - sus! Let all

heav - en and earth pro - claim: kings and king - doms will

all pass a - way, but there's some-thing a - bout that name!