

The Falls Village Congregational Church

December 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.

2nd Sunday in Advent

The Reverend Richard W. Reifsnnyder, Worship Leader

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Church Bell

Choral Prelude – *An Advent Prayer* - A. Pote

THE CHURCH GATHERS TO PRAISE

Call to Worship

Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted,
among the privileged,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear
conscience, with burning love,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that
the powerful might be humbled, that the humble might be raised,

Christ is coming to make all things new.

Let us worship Christ who comes to bring us life.

Prayer for God's Presence:

Lord Jesus, we are bold to pray that you would work in our lives
to prepare us for your presence among us Create in us a vivid
expectation of your advent. Stir up in us a desire to welcome you in
all times and in all circumstances in our lives. As we worship, help
us not only to praise you but to grow in your grace, to explore new
dimensions of your love, and to hear your claim upon our lives in
service to you and your kingdom Amen.

Hymn #129 "*Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates*"

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious and understanding God: We confess to you our pride,
our faithlessness, and our reluctance to accept your grace. Through
the work of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, forgive us, heal

us, correct us, and transform us. Enable us to be still, to know your
presence, and to praise you. We pray through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace of Christ.

TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Dick and Donna Heinz

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

Rich Reifsnnyder

Prayer

Sermon: "Real Choices"

The Rev. Richard W. Reifsnnyder

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to Communion

Hymn of Preparation "*Come to the Table of Grace*"

The Communion Prayer:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your heads

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

It is right, and a good and joyful thing

(The Minister continues the prayer)

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

(Please partake of the bread individually, when it is received, as a sign of our individual relationship to God, but hold the cup so we may drink together, as a sign of our unity before our God)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Closing Hymn: #104 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Benediction

Benediction Response (gather in a circle around the sanctuary)

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.

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates 129

1. Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo-ri-ous
2. Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; make it a tem-ple,
3. Re-deem-er, come! We o-pen wide our hearts to you; here,
4. So come, our Sov-ereign; en-ter in! Let new and no-bler

Rul-er waits! The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing
set a-part from earth-ly use for heav-en's em-
Christ, a-bide! Let us your in-ner pres-ence
life be-gin; your Ho-ly Spir-it guide us

near; the Sav-ior of the world is here.
ploy, a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
feel, your grace and love in us re-veal.
on, un-til the glo-ri-ous crown be-won.

2nd Sunday in Advent – December 4, 2022
Lighting of Candle of Peace

Today we relight the candle of HOPE. Now we light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This is the candle of PEACE.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace.

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and the spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Isaiah 2:3-4

Hymn #142, v. 2: People, Look East

Let us pray:

Gracious God, Grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities, in our nation, and in our world. Help us to see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give to us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 Come to the Table of Grace

$\text{♩} = 72 (\text{♪} = \overset{\sim}{\text{♪}})$

F C7 F F7/C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

Bb C F C

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

F Bb/F F7 Bb Bdim7

This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

F/C C7 F

Come to the ta - ble of *grace.

*Additional stanzas:
2 peace; 3 love; 4 joy; 5 hope

Of the Father's Love Begotten (Of Eternal Love Begotten) 104

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be-got - ten,* ere the worlds be-gan to be,
2. O ye heights of heaven sing prais-es; an-gels and arch-an-gels sing!
3. Christ, to thee with God Cre-a - tor, and O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he!
And on earth let all the faith - ful now your joy - ous an - them's ring,
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wearied prais - es be:

Of the things that are, that have been, and that fu-ture years shall see,
ev'-ry tongue Christ's name con-fess - ing, count-less voic-es an - swer-ing,
Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

*Of eternal love begotten