

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019
11:00 a.m.*



*“A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse;
a branch will sprout from his roots.
The Lord’s spirit will rest upon him,
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
-Isaiah 11:1-2*

WELCOME VISITOR! We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about the Christian faith and about the church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus
Linda Hodges, Office Manager

Ward Gailey, Music Director
Gena Ridgeway, Accompanist
Nursery, Suzie Wharton & Allie Dunn

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP
(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able, please stand.

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 4)

**O Come, desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE*

Carolyn Holloway

One: This is the second Sunday of Advent. We join Christians around the world in observing this holy season of watching, waiting, and hoping for the coming Christ and his peace.

All: Today, we light purple candles, which remind us of royalty, calling us to remember that Jesus was descended from the royal line of David and reigns over us as the Prince of Peace.

One: The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the fearful world, a vision of gentleness and peace. "The wolf shall live with the lamb," he said, and "the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." Animals we would never trust together will eat right next to each other! And their children will be safe with each other.

All: Animals who like meat will eat plants!

One: Tiny children will be safe even in the places we expect them to be in danger.

All: God's mountain will be a peaceful place for all people because everyone will know how God wants things to be.

One: As we wait faithfully for God's time, we light the candles of Hope and Peace.

All: Our peace comes from God, who became one of us in Jesus.

SUNG RESPONSE

**Now it's time to light the candle; Messengers prepare the way.
Wolf and lamb lie down together; Righteousness marks God's new day.
Light will overcome the darkness: See the peace the Christchild brings.**

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8

Pew Bible, page 32

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

SONG #166 "Wait for the Lord"

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Advent Workshop Stations

In addition to general fellowship and conversation, please join in any of the following:

Nativity Reflection

Take time with one of a variety of nativity scenes.

Find your place in the Story

Choose a stone, and label or decorate it to represent yourself. Then place your stone in the nativity scene, wherever you feel you belong.

Coloring Station

Join in coloring the Christmas poster. Color as much or as little as you like. The poster we create together will be displayed for Christmas!

Mission Project

Get into the spirit of giving, and help sign and stuff Christmas cards for the families who will receive Christmas baskets.

Advent/Christmas Reading Center

Select from various books and writings about Advent and Christmas.

Hope Decoration Station

Color and fill out the 3 pieces for a Christmas ornament, then assemble. Finishing ornaments will be added to our sanctuary Christmas tree.

Prayer Chain

Write your prayers on the appropriate strips of paper, and add them to the chain of prayers.

Quiet Space

In the midst of the busy season, what some of us need most is peace and quiet. In the parlor, you will find such a space.

*Advent candle liturgy and hymn were written by Martha Spong and used with her permission.