

Prayer for Illumination

Dear Lord, in the silence of our hearts, the listening of our ears, and the wisdom of our minds, may the word become Word for us, in Christ's name and by his power.

Scripture Reading Romans 13: 11 – 14; Matthew 24: 36 - 44

Sermon SURPRISE!

***Hymn#48** Lo! How A Rose E're Blooming (*verse 1*)

Service of Communion as Advent Begins
Welcome and Invitation
Prayer
Words of Institution
Distribution of the Elements
Prayer of Gratitude

Prayers of the Pastor and the People (Lord's Prayer)

***Hymn at Parting#12** People Look East

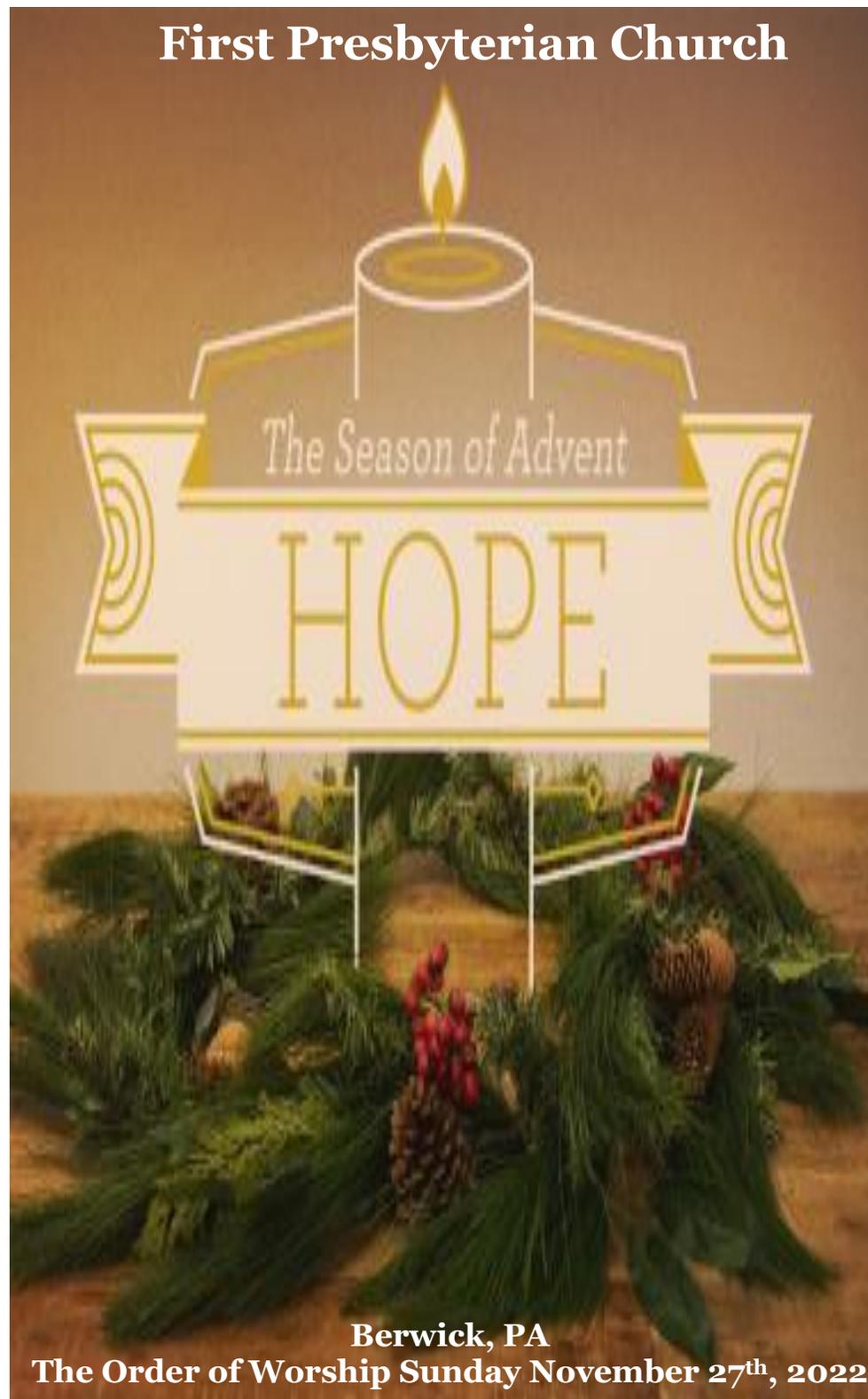
***Charge and Benediction**

As you begin the journey of Advent, remember that you are partners with Christ in bringing in the realm of God, and that in the days of uncertainty as the world is transformed, be watchful and stay awake, remembering that Christ prays for you, and draws you into the very heart of God. May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with you always. May it be so.

***Musical Benediction#**

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Liturgy written by Barbara Chaapel and provided for free distribution.

Worship Participants
Steve Engelhardt, Pastor
Joan Thomas, Worship Assistant
Jennifer White, Organist
Eugeniu Grigorescu, Technical Director



Berwick, PA
The Order of Worship Sunday November 27th, 2022

Time of Preparation

Action doesn't come first, nor does belief.

What comes first is the love of God.

Joann H. Lee

Words of Welcome/Announcements

Prelude Come, Thou Savior of Our World
Andreas Vetter Ed. by L Dean Bye

***Call to Worship (From Psalm 122)**

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

All Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

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

All 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.

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

All Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

***Opening Hymn#8** Lift Up Your Head Ye Mighty Gates

***Invocation**

Would that You would come in our midst with a gift of Hope! Advent takes us to Christmas by a path we would not choose: through desert, denial, humility and vulnerability. So we set out today for Bethlehem, together and alone. Like a shepherd, lead us onward and inward. Amen.

***Praise Chorus#** He Came Down (*first verse*)

Lighting of the Advent candles – HOPE

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight. Sooner than we think, the congregation will gather on Christmas Eve to sing those words. HOPE carries greater weight here because our hopes and dreams have been realized in Bethlehem's baby, Jesus. In a world where pockets and plains of darkness exist everywhere, we dare to believe and trust the God of Abraham and Sarah who so long

ago, trusted the covenant God made with them. We light the candle of HOPE as we begin preparations for these Advent days.

The candle is lit.

Let us pray together: O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord, Emanuel. May this flickering candle of HOPE be sufficient always and in all ways.

***Hymn Response #9** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*verse 1*)

Call to Confession and Prayer (From Hebrews 4:14-16)

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and neighbor; let us pray:

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... (We are all invited to consider our personal prayers at this time.

Declaration of Forgiveness

With the coming of Christ, God has given us the gift of forgiveness, even seventy times seven. God reaches out to offer us new life, a new day, a chance to begin again — loved and beautiful, even as on the first day of creation. Believe the promise of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

Special Music O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. by Joseph M. Martin

Lift Up Your Head Ye Mighty Gates

¹ Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates,
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

² Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

³ Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee: here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel;
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

He Came Down

He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope;
Hallelujah forever more.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

¹ O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lo! How A Rose E'er Blooming

¹ Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung.
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
By faithful prophets sung.
It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

People Look East

¹ People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

² Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

³ Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

⁴ Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

⁵ Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.