



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God
December 10, 2023

The Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus is our Peace

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

A Christmas Prelude

Callahan
Susan Charlton, flute

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ADVENT WREATH – LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Jim & Shirley Van Norman

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 85

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak;
for he will speak peace to his people.
To his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
The Lord will give what is good;
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will be before him;
and will make a path for his steps.
Come, let us worship God.

*HYMN 3 (V.1-3)

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord of the desert, of the valleys and of the hills, we hear your call to us to bring comfort to those in darkness, to those oppressed and to prepare a way for you. But Lord, your voice gets quickly overwhelmed by all the other voices demanding our attention at this time of the year. There is shopping to do, cookies to make, trimming to accomplish and parties to attend. And while this is all OK and the fun time of the season, perhaps we let it crowd out the “good news” of your coming. That “good news” requires us to do some self-reflection about who we are and what we do, to ask for forgiveness of failing your will for our lives and to turn toward the light and a life of renewal and purpose. Send your Spirit to encourage and guide us as we seek out the “good news” in our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our God is a God of peace, a God of love and a God of understanding. As such, our God accepts that we may at times be deaf to his call and thus sent Christ to make us complete and worthy of God's forgiveness. Praise be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Gloria Patri

**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. Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

Good News, Bad News!

Rev. Larry Van Hise

ANTHEM

Blessed Be the God of Israel

The Chancel Choir

Blessed to be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God will turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham from foes to save us all.
That we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
In holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth, and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Christmas Joy Offering

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and God's ministries through Christ's church.

*Please leave your offering in the boxes at the front and rear of the sanctuary
or make your gifts online or via mail.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, you meet our needs and transform us for service. Accept these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our commitment to witness to Christ's ministry in your world. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 8 (V. 1-3)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Cassler

Worship Leaders

Rev. Larry Van Hise

Bud Martin, Guest Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Pat Koefoed, Liturgist

John & Shirley Heinsohn, Coffee Hour Hosts

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed

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