

**PROVIDENCE FORGE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020**

ADVENT READING

Johanna Davis & Leigh Quick

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 80)

Leader: Restore us, O God! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

People: Let your hand be with the one on your right side, with the one whom you secured as your own.

Leader: Then we will not turn away from you! Revive us so that we can call on your name.

All: Restore us, God of heavenly forces! Make your face shine so that we can be saved!

**SONG OF PRAISE #2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) Lavon Baylor

We confess, Surprising God, that our sense of anticipation has been dulled. We have ceased to expect any wonders from your hand. We do not see the marvels around us in the people and happenings we view as commonplace. We are not alert to your presence or your action on our behalf. Wake us up, God, lest sleep be our death. Pardon and redeem us that we may escape the judgment we are bringing on ourselves. Send your light that it may shine through us into a needy world.

Silence is kept.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: we are forgiven and restored, set on right paths of justice and peace. Thanks be to God!

FOR CHILDREN Mark 13:33 (New English Translation)

Watch out! Stay alert! For you do not know when the time will come.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37 NRSV

- ²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
- ²⁵ ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
- ²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he^{is} near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^{is} for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he

may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

ANTHEM

SERMON

Rev. Nancy Coleman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Roger Gench

God of Advent, we stand at the threshold of this season, hopefully anticipating a birth in a stable in Bethlehem. We are like your people of old, wandering in a wilderness, longing for your glory to shine as a light in our darkness. Make your face shine in our midst once more and deliver us from all that threatens us. Prompt us to discern and act at those places where your love and justice are breaking forth in our lives and communities. Calm the fear in us. Animate courage in us. Make us brave in confronting realities that deform and deface your world, so that we may participate in your reconciling work in our midst. And we pray for the world of nations, especially for those places where violence is wreaking havoc upon human lives and the life of your creation. We pray for countries dealing with devastation caused by hurricanes, wildfires and other natural disasters. We pray for those in our own country who have lost jobs, revenue, healthcare, and loved ones during this relentless pandemic. Help us to serve as agents of your love and care to those in our midst who are suffering. And we pray for wise discernment by our nation's leadership as they negotiate ways in which to aid those most afflicted. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

Opportunities are Easytithe <https://app.easytithe.com/App/Giving/pfpc>
C&F Bank for PFPC and mail to P.O. Box 239

**5¢ a Meal can be offered both using Easy Tithe or a separate check sent to the church.*

SONG OF RESPONSE #8 Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

**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!**

**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.**

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

BENEDICTION

Wake up! Stay alert! God's future is breaking into our present lives.
Fear not, for God's Spirit will empower us to participate in that future.
Lift up the broken hearted, stand with the oppressed, and let all that you do be out of love. Amen.

People: Peace be with you!