

**PROVIDENCE FORGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020**

**ADVENT READING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 85)**

Leader: Let us hear what the Lord God says, because God speaks peace to the church.

**People: God's salvation is very close to those who honor the Holy One, so that God's glory can live in our land.**

Leader: Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have warmly embraced.

**All: Righteousness walks before God, making a road for God's steps.**

**SONG OF PRAISE #9 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**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! O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel! 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.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

O God, we confess that far too often we find ourselves stuck, overwhelmed or aimless, trapped by fears and anxieties that paralyze us, constraining our actions. Simple acts of compassion – of connection with others – are enormously difficult. And sometimes anger, even rage, takes us hostage, and we treat others as enemies, failing to discern your beloved image in them. Free us from fear and anger so that we can love without restraint — so that we may be compassionate, as you are compassionate, because we are your children.

*Silence is kept.*

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**FOR CHILDREN Isaiah 40:11 (Easy to Read Version)**

*Like a good shepherd, he takes care of his people. He gathers them like lambs in his arms.*

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**ANTHEM**

**In Silence We Wait**

**SERMON**

**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**

O God on this second Sunday of Advent, we ponder our human predicament, recognizing how often we find ourselves overwhelmed by circumstances. And yet you have promised to lift every valley, straighten the crooked path and level the mountains in order to come to us and lead us home. We hear your promises, O God. Empower us by your Spirit to see the way you have set before us. Empower us as a community of faith to accompany one another on the journey. Help us to listen to each other with compassion when we feel fearful or angry or lost. And help us to recognize your tender love that is ever before us. We pray for the world of nations, including our own as we continue to grapple with a relentless pandemic. We pray especially for the vulnerable among us: for medical professionals and staff, for essential workers, for parents with school-age children and for their teachers, for the elderly and for those with preexisting health conditions. O God, help us to live responsibly, in ways that protect the well being of others. We pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones during these difficult days. We pray that you would grant wisdom to the leadership of our local communities, our cities, our states and our country that they might discern a path forward in these perilous times. Indeed, grant all of us wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord Amen.

### **OFFERING**

Opportunities are Easytithes <https://app.easytithes.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 PREPARATION #319 Spirit**

Spirit, spirit of gentleness. Blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.  
Wind, wind on the sea.  
You moved on the waters, You called to the deep,

Then You coaxed up the mountains. From the valley of sleep,  
And over the eons You called to each thing,  
"A wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."  
Spirit, spirit of gentleness. Blow through the wilderness, calling and free. Spirit, spirit of restlessness. Stir me from placidness.  
Wind, wind on the sea.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation  
Prayer of Thanksgiving and Lord's Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Sharing the Elements  
Prayer

**SONG OF RESPONSE #15 Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers  
Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh;  
Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.  
See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;  
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.  
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;  
Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand!  
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere!  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with Thee!**

### **BENEDICTION**

Comfort, comfort my people, says the Lord. So stand on the promise that every valley shall be lifted up; every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Stand on the promise that the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and that all people shall see it together. Alleluia! Amen.

**People: Peace be with you!**

**Liturgy by Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook**