

**The Presque Isle Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**  
**December 4, 2022 -Second Sunday in Advent**

<b>Prelude</b>		Barbara Merryman
<b>Gathering Music</b>	<i>Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord</i> <sup>1</sup>	Jim and Jean Strathdee
<b>Welcome</b>		Jennifer Gillis-White
<b>Advent Candle Lighting</b>	<b>The Candle of Peace</b>	Terry and Erin Kelly
<b>Introit</b>	<i>Wait for the Lord</i> <sup>2</sup>	

**Call to Worship**

One: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

One: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

One: A child soon comes from an innocent place with wisdom and might, he'll lead the way.

**All: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.**

*-Inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13<sup>3</sup>*

**Opening Prayer** (In Unison)

God of the waiting wanderers in the wilderness,  
We enter this moment of worship expecting that when we leave this hour of prayer,  
We will be full of the courage needed to stand as a signal.  
We come to the mountain to feel closer to your presence, O God.  
May the mountains yield prosperity for your people.  
May righteousness flourish and peace abound.  
You, alone, are the God who does wondrous things.  
May your glory fill this place as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*-Inspired by Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19*

**Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*<sup>4</sup>

<b>Two-Minute Message</b>	The Jesse Tree	Meg Hegemann
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<sup>1</sup> *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*. Contributors: Jim Strathdee. Tune: © 1979 Desert Flower Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee. Text: © 1979 Desert Flower Music/Jim and Jean Strathdee. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652.

<sup>2</sup> *Wait for the Lord*. Words and Music - ©1984 Taizé, Les Presses de (North America). GIA Publications, Inc., agent Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community. Performed by Taizé Community Choir, Chet Valley Churches, Diocese of Norwich, UK. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652.

<sup>3</sup> Call to Worship and Opening Prayer. Rev. Mia M. McClain is the Senior Pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Washington D.C. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2a-december-4/>

<sup>4</sup> *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. (Veni, Veni, Emmanuel). Latin 12<sup>th</sup> Century Ancient Antiphons. Versified in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Translator: J.M. Neale (1851). Public Domain. Tune: Plainsong. Adapter: Thomas Helmore. Public Domain. Performed by the Virtual Choir of Orange United Methodist Church, Chapel Hill, NC. Douglas Buchanan, Director. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652.

## Scripture Reading

## Matthew 3:1-12 (CEB)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

**The voice of one shouting in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."**

John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

## Reflection

Meg Hegemann

## Choral Anthem

Come, O Come Immanuel<sup>5</sup>

PIUCC Choir

## Service of Holy Communion

### Communion Hymn

*Broken Body of Christ*<sup>6</sup>

The Many

### Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon** (Responsive - On Screen Display)

## Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our **Creator**<sup>\*</sup>, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

***\*Please use whatever name is most familiar/comfortable when you pray to God.***

## Closing Hymn

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*<sup>7</sup>

## Benediction

## Postlude

Barbara Merryman

<sup>5</sup> *Come, Come, Immanuel*. Words and Music - ©1995 Jubilate Music. Contributors: Jay Althouse. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652. All rights reserved.

<sup>6</sup> *Broken Body of Christ*. Text and Tune: The Many. Permission to use music lyric video in worship and to stream granted by our annual subscription to the Convergence Music Project.

<sup>7</sup> *On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry*. Text: LM; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806-1876. Tune: WINCHESTER NEW, Charles Coffin. *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, Hamburg, 1690; Harmonizer: William Henry Monk. Performed by Virtual Choir, St. David's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD. Permission to print/podcast/stream granted by One License #A-726652.



**Second Sunday in Advent**

**December 4, 2022**

### **Lighting the Candle of Peace<sup>3</sup>**

In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter or memory of a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding.

But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle. Peace is what the prophets foretold. Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

Re-light the **Hope** candle and light the 2nd **purple** candle.

We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it. In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace. Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

**ALL. We light a candle for hope. May it light the way.**

### ***Sung Response***

#### ***A Candle is Burning***

*(Sung to the tune of Away In a Manger)<sup>4</sup>*

A candle is burning, a candle of PEACE.  
A candle to signal the conflict must cease.  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way  
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

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<sup>3</sup> Advent readings adapted from readings originally shared by Christian Aid ([www.christianaid.org.UK](http://www.christianaid.org.UK)) as part of their #LighttheWay and found on [www.inclusivegathering.org.uk](http://www.inclusivegathering.org.uk) #adventproject2020.

<sup>4</sup> *A Candle is Burning*. Words: Sandra Dean (1986). Ms. Dean is a former Director of Music at Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The song is used with her permission and blessing. Tune: Attributed to James. R. Murray (1887). MUELLER. Public Domain. Permission to stream granted by One License A-726652.