



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
Stone Presbyterian Church
A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
December 10, 2023 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent



We Gather in Peace

PRELUDE "Creator of the Stars of Night"
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

Alec Wyton

CHORAL INTROIT AND POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 85)

Lord, grant us your peace; show us your love and mercy.

O Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sins.

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.

Lord, grant us your peace; show us your love and mercy.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good. Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

Lord, grant us your peace; show us your love and mercy.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

All: Let us worship God.



+HYMN #3 "Comfort, Comfort You My People" PSALM 42

WELCOME

THE 2ND ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE
 Pat and Buzz Joseph



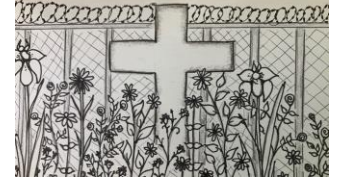
UNISON PRAYER

God of Peace, help us to know the fullness of your peace. Help us to be instruments of that peace, that the world might come to know what it means to live in you, to live for you, and thus to live for one another.

We pray for such a world and pray for its coming in this Advent season in which we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

+THE ADVENT GIVING - PEACEMAKING AND GLOBAL WITNESS

You are invited to bring forward your offering for the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support world-wide peacemaking and global witness efforts.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(responsively)*

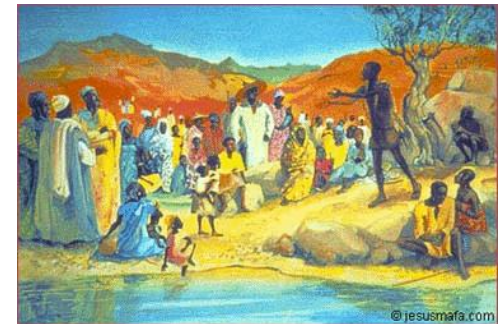
...This we confess.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY (to the tune GLORIA)

**To the God of hope we sing,
 To the Son let praises ring,
 And the Holy Spirit praise,
 As this song of hope we raise:
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!**



+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Listen for the Word of the Lord

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
 (You are invited to say the "amen" aloud.)

LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 40:1–11 Comfort my people.
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.



2 Peter 3:8-15a *A thousand years are as a day to God.*
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God

ANTHEM **“Prepare the Way”** Allan Robert Petker

Mark 1:1–8 *John the Baptist appears.*
The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God. Told by Donna Goodfriend

SERMON **“Peace Offering”**

We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving

+HYMN (*insert*) **“Come Down, O Love Divine”** DOWN AMPNEY

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John)
(see insert)

LIFE OF THE CHURCH, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER
“debts/debtors” (Traditional, *Hymnal*, p. 16)

OFFERTORY **“WINCHESTER NEW”** Christopher Tambling

+A DOXOLOGY ADESTE FIDELES
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Out to Serve in the Name of Christ

+HYMN #10 **“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”** WINCHESTER NEW

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+CHORAL RESPONSE

+POSTLUDE

STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP

December 10, 2023 ~ 2nd Sunday in Advent ~ 10:30 a.m.



The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.

All the People, Ministers

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Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator
Lee Kelso, Sexton

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www.instagram.com/stonepresbyterian/

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John)
In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made. What was made in him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not been able to overcome it.
He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.
He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

Comfort, Comfort You My People

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PSALM 42 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

Johannes Olearius, 1671

Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

Genevan Psalter, 1551

1. Com-fort, com - fort you my peo - ple, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing In the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook-ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;

Com-fort those who sit in dark-ness Bowed be-neath op - pres-sion's load.
 Bid - ding us to make re-pent-ance Since the king-dom now is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
 O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, And their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing And the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken That God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

DOWN AMPNEY

Binaco de Siena (d. 1434)

Trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867, Adapted, Dennis Dewey 2008

1. Come down, O Love divine,
Seek out this soul of mine
And visit it with your own ardor glowing;
O Coming One, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

2. O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let your glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

3. And so the yearning strong
With which the soul will long
Shall far out pass the power of human telling;
For none can guess God's grace,
Till Love creates a place
Wherein the Word-made-flesh can make its dwelling.

Matthew 3:1-3

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

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WINCHESTER NEW LM

Charles Coffin, 1736

Trans. John Chandler, 1837; alt.

Musikalisches Handbuch, 1690

Harm. William Henry Monk, 1847; alt.

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; Make
3. We hail You as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our
4. All praise to You, e - ter - nal Son, Whose

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
straight the way for God with - in, And let us all our
ref - uge, and our great re - ward; O let Your face up -
ad - vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
on us shine And fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.