

POTWIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

785-631-0993

Topeka, Kansas

Sunday December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday in Advent

Liturgical color: purple

PRELUDE

CHIMES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

Unison: For God's steadfast love endures forever, and this give us hope!

Let us praise God's Holy Name forever!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING - JOY

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-19

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reader 1—The Messiah’s coming was punctuated by joy: “The angel said to the shepherds, do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!”

Reader 2—Joy to the world, the Lord is Come! Let earth receive her king!
Today we light the candle of joy!

Reader 1—The fulfillment of God’s promises were ultimately to be displayed in a kingdom founded on love: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Reader 2—The darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noon-day bright, and Christ’s great kingdom shall come to earth, the kingdom of love and light. Today we light the candle of joy.

Lighting of the candles (2 purples)

***OPENING HYMN:** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#9 Blue Hymnal)

Praise, Prayers, and Petitions

SILENT PRAYERS OF PERSONAL CONFESSION:

CORPORATE PRAYERS OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

God of Strength and Might,

We proclaim that “The Lord is near!” and yet we fret over our destiny, clutching your good gifts anxiously, always fearful. Forgive us for living as if you were not among us, and as if your good promises mean nothing. Fill us with your joy so that like the angels we might be heralds of your Good News – that you have come to live among us and to bring your kingdom to fruition. In Christ’s name we ask it, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: As God has forgiven us so let us forgive one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

Unison: And also with you!

Leader: Please share the love and peace of Christ with each other as you feel comfortable.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

***HYMN:** “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (#5 Blue Hymnal)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(pg 16 in the Hymnal, Traditional version)

***Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri) #577**

The Word:

PASTORAL PRAYER

Illumination (Sung x2)

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 98

NEW TESTAMENT READING: John 15:1-17

MESSAGE: “Live Into Joy”

Pastor Sue Ann Seel

MEDITATION ON THE MESSAGE:

Gwen Jones

Response to the Word

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY:

Gwen Jones

DOXOLOGY:

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” (#592 Blue Hymnal)

***OFFERING RESPONSE: Blessed be God forever.**

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Joy to the World!”

(#40 Blue Hymnal)

***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth

The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father

Siblings all are we

Let us walk with each other

In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me

Let this be the moment now

With every step I take

Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live

Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me