*Bath Presbyterian Church*

*December 4, 2022 10:45am*

*Second Sunday of Advent*

[www.bathchurch.org](http://www.bathchurch.org/) *(FaceBook link) On the radio: 105.3 FM*

Lighting of the Candle/Ringing of the Bell

Music for Meditation

Welcoming/In the Life of the Church - Prayer Church…Us!

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Minute for Mission

**Call to Worship: Advent Reading and Candle Lighting**

**Reader 1:** *Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”*

**Reader 2:** In the beginning was the Word—spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

**All: Speak it loud and clear—God’s promise is true!**

**Reader1:**  The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.

**All: Eternal and near at hand, Already and not-yet, God’s promise is the foundation of all life.**

**Reader 2:**  Do not hold back! Speak out, giving voice to God’s peace that passes all understanding.

*~candle is lit~*

**Call to Worship in Music**: “O Come O Come Emmanuel”

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel. And Ransom Captive Israel.*

**Call to Confession:** Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone, the day is near. God comes to us in mercy and love. With this assurance, let us collectively confess our sins before God and one another:

**Prayer of Confession (in unison): Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbor. We have taken great benefits with little thanks and we have been more ready to insist upon our rights than to see the needs of others. Have mercy and forgive us, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: The good news is that all who trust in Christ will have their sins forgiven and receive eternal life. As you hold this faith, I declare that we are set free from all our sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Thanks be to God.

**Opening Hymn – #82 “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

\*The Passing of the Peace

Children’s Sermon

1st Scripture Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Music for Meditation

**2nd Scripture Reading – Matthew 3: 1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** **Thanks Be To God**

**Sermon:** “Let Peace Begin With Me”

**\*Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed (The United Church)**

**We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People – Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*Sung Prayer response: “Gloria”*

**Offering**

*\*Doxology*

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

*Offertory Prayer*

Closing Hymn - #129 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

\***Benediction- (in unison)**

**One:**  Be people of peace. Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet.

**All: We will Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear. We will Share peace by listening to all sides of the story. We will share peace by praying for our world.**

**One:**  In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share peace. As you go out into the wonder of God’s creations, share peace and hope with those you meet. Go in peace, today and always. Amen.

Postlude- “A Christmas Benediction”

Musician: Brad Hitchcock

Lay Leader: Mabel Geis

**Announcements & More**

**Every Sunday:**

ü Breakfast – 9 am

ü Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:30

**Ongoing:**

⮚ Food for FISH:Non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, personal care items; bar, hand & body soap.

**Birthdays: Dec 7 – Norma Hopper**

**Anniversaries: Dec 5 – Sharon and Tim Cottrill**

**On the Horizon:**

v Now through Dec 4 – Adopt a Family

v Dec 4 – Coffee and Donuts

v Dec 11 – Called Congregational Meeting

v Dec 11 – Christmas Dinner

v Dec 24 7pm – Christmas Eve CandleLight Service

v Dec 25 10am – Christmas morning Breakfast and Communion Service