

December 5, 2021

10:15 AM

FLORISSANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome! We are so happy to have you join us in-person, on Facebook live, or outside in our drive-in for worship today. If you are participating in our drive-in-service, please tune your FM receiver to the 107.9 station and you will be able to hear in stereo from inside your car.

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

HYMN: O come, O come, Emmanuel #88

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

2. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Psalm 85)

ONE: LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Many: You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You pardoned all their sin.



ONE: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Many: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear the LORD, that the LORD's glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

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

Many: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

All: Righteousness will go before God, and will make a path for the LORD's steps.

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Out of the turbulence of our pandemic and in the rapidly fragmenting world around us, Faithful God, Your Word brings a message of the hope of Peace and its wholeness. Renew us in this hope, that Christ's advent of Peace shall grow healing and happiness among our families, friends, and all the peoples of the world. God of hope and God of peace come into our empty and broken world to draw us closer to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates #93

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.
2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Unison

Because we are confident that God is with us, Emmanuel, we now confess that our poor choices lead us into traps in our own making. Choosing to sustain paths of quarreling depletes our relationships and jealousy poisons our unity. We pursue our own selfish satisfactions rather than the well-being of all God's children. We seek Your forgiveness, O Lord, and the strength to repent from the brokenness of our sin. Help us to live in peace and hope as we draw nearer to You in confession. Amen

Time for silent, personal prayer

PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (all sing) #582

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. (x 3)
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

SERMON: In the Wilderness

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN: Let Us Break Bread Together #525

1. Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]
3. Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: What Child Is This #145

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

CHARGE and BLESSING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor
Lift your eyes and see his face and his grace forever.
May the Lord, mighty Lord, bless and keep you forever.

POSTLUDE



Georgiana, Candy, Ruth, Ellen, Tom, Lois, Lynn, Dianne, Fern, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Carole's niece Brittany, Mary's brother, Sue's friend Lill, Ruth & her great grandson, Sue & her brother-in-law Shawn and her sister Lynn.