

New Life Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2011

First Sunday
in Advent



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† Please stand if you are able,

BOJ - Book of Joy, SF - Sing the Faith, PH - Presbyterian Hymnal

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The chimes call us to the tables for worship.

~Prelude ~

Please let the prelude

help us step away from the everyday and move into a place of worship.

Let us prepare our hearts, forgive our neighbors,
open our ears to God's call to us this day.

Grace and Peace; God's love has called you here.

Gathering

† Gathering Hymn

"O Come O Come Emmanuel"

PH 9

Sharing the Joys and Concerns of the Community

The chimes signal a time of silence in order to center ourselves for worship.

We kindle the first light.

*It is our custom at New Life to light the votive candles on the Communion table
as we sing hymns, pass the peace of Christ, and offer prayers of the people.*

Please come forward at any of these times.

Call to worship

One: Come O Long Expected Jesus

All: We prepare the house we prepare our hearts

One: That we can be ready

All: To receive again the Gift of God for the People of God.

Come, God, attend our praise

The Chimes Signal the Prayers of the People
*As we offer our prayers of petition and of thanks, the people respond,
“God, you hear our prayers,” or “God, we thank you.”*
Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus
*We pray this prayer inviting each of you to pray it in the version closest to your heart.
Even as we pray, we listen to the rich diversity here.*

Invitation to the Offering

The Joy Offering

Offering

Improvisational Music by Matalie Wham

† Doxology

Copies on Tables

Dedication of the Gifts of the People

Going Out

† Sending Hymn

“O Come All Ye Faithful” (first verse) PH 41

† Charge and Benediction

Postlude

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This morning’s service was prepared by Bobbie McGarey and the Worship Committee.

Tune: Richard Storrs Willis, Church Chorals and Choir Studies, 1850.

“God, You Alone Know What You’ve Planned” Text: Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Email: bcgillette@comcast.net

“An Advent Legend” words by Charlotte Lee, music by Douglas E. Wagner.

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O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees
As seasons change each year,
For when they bud and grow new leaves
You know that summer's near."
May we look round this changing earth
And see with faith-filled eyes
Your signs of newness, life and birth
That witness to the wise.

Though heav'n and earth will pass away,
Your word will still be true.
O Son of Man, on that great day,
We'll be secure in you.
For at the close of history
When all that's past shall end,
The one who judges us will be
No stranger, but a friend.

So by your Spirit may we share
The life you're bringing forth:
May we seek justice, end despair,
And work to heal the earth.
For there's a new day coming near
With no more death or pain;
Till then, we'll seek to serve you here
And welcome in your reign.

Call to Transformation

Prayer of Transformation in Unison

**Good and Gracious God we come to you surrounded by a world
that makes getting and possession something to be favored.
We come to you already living in bounty
finding that others want us to want even more.
We come filled with all good things,
and we walk past the hungry, and homelessly, and the hurting.
Forgive us. Turn us. Transform us. Soften the hardness of our hearts
that your presence can fill us and we are bound to share all we are.
As individuals and as a community we ask that you enkindle in us
such a new love for you that our joy, your joy, overflows.**

Assurance of Pardon in Unison

God is Great we seek God's face.

God is Great we are made new.

God is amazing, let us stand in God's presence transformed.

NL Choral Ensemble

Directed by Matalie Wham

"An Advent Legend" words by Charlotte Lee, music by Douglas E. Wagner.

*In the still, dead of winter on the cold Judean plain,
no creature stirred, no sound was heard but wind through frosted trees.
The wilderness was barren; the snow that gently fell wrapped all the earth
in silence to await Emmanuel.*

*And one bird sang in clear, shrill notes of hope... and one bird sang in the dark and cold:
one bird alone, a song through all creation, tidings of joy and comfort —
"The Lord, incarnate, comes!"*

*Then the lambs began their bleating and every stone cried out:
"Make straight the road to meet Him; make ready every heart."
And echo through all open hearts, tidings of the Lord to come:
"Deo gratias; our hearts now prepare."*

Welcome the Confirmation Class

A time with the Youth and Children

† Sharing the Peace of Christ with the community.

The Epistle Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Gospel Lesson

Mark 13: 24-37

Sermon "Sleepers Awake"

Rev. Bobbie G. McGarey

*We always want to know how to prepare for big events.
We want to be sure all the pieces are together and the parts re-membered.
What needs putting together for you this Advent?*

Preparation for Prayer

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"
(remain seated)

SF 2128

Hearing the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Lighting the Advent Candles

Please light a purple candle at your table as the congregational candle is lighted.

Reader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined...
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: Today we remember the prophets of old,
who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come,
unexpected liberator of the people,
vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

**People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us,
who bring to us surprising new visions of hope,
who challenge us to think outside the box,
who show us a future we never anticipated.**

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent,
we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets
who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

† Advent Hymn "God, You Alone Know What You've Planned"
(It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)

God, you alone know what you've planned
For earth and sky and sea.
Creation waits your loving hand
To bring in what will be.
When things we trust in shift and shake
And sorrows multiply,
We hear you calling, "Keep awake!
Redemption is close by!"



Grace and mercy be yours this Advent Season. As we prepare for Christmas and the Inbreaking of God we gather for worship and praise and prayer. This is a wonderful time of year and we pray that your hearts and home will be filled with the presence of God in fullest measure. We will celebrate Communion on Christmas Sunday. On the 20th at 7pm we will hold a Blue Christmas service remembering that the passing of the year brings both joy and tears. Christmas eve services are at 7 with candlelight worship. Make ready and plan to come to these and other opportunities for worship.

After worship this morning we will be Hanging the Greens in the Church to prepare for this season. We invite you to stay, a light soup lunch has been prepared and we'll share together. Let's decorate together.

Pastor Bobbie is leaving for India on Monday the 28th to December 12th on vacation. She and her daughter will be visiting family in India. They go south first to Kotigiri to visit a nephew who works with indigenous people to find ways to support themselves so they can stay in their villages. (internet at keystone-foundation.org) They spend the second week in Bhogpur Childrens' Home, near DehraDun in the north in the foothills of the Himalayas.(home4children.com) The children there are children of leper parents from K-12th grades. This was founded by John's grandparents Drs. John and Elizabeth Taylor. She thanks you in advance for your prayer for them as they journey.

