

# GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.**

**December 6, 2020; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year B**

## WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC

"Advent Medley"  
Jeurgan Tempel, Cello, Soloist

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE      Isaiah 40:3-5

Leader: A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**People: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**

Leader: Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

**ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

BLUE HYMNAL #9      "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

- 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!**
- 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of the future, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised transformation of the**

**world. Give us grace to heed the promises of your prophets and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE OFFERING

## **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **WE PROCLAIM THE WORD**

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might, and the arm of God rules; God brings reward, and is heralded with recompense. <sup>11</sup> God will feed the holy flock like a shepherd, gathering the lambs, carrying and holding them close, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of the Lord,'" <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair,

with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SERMON

"The Beginning of Christmas"

Rev. Martin McGeachy

### WE SEAL THE WORD

MEDITATION

John Vangor, guitar

### THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

For those joining virtually, all are invited to partake of bread and wine, or any substance that feels appropriate, or prayerfully take in the sacrifice of the Lord symbolically.

INVITATION, PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

### WE BEAR THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

**BLUE HYMNAL #29**

**"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"**

**Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)**
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- 3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

"I Wonder, As I Wonder"

arr. by Martha Meir  
Folk song

The flowers this week are given by Mary Temple, to the glory of God and in celebration of Annina Celli's birthday.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ▶ If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the chancel in honor of a loved one, Please contact Pastor Martin or Margery Amato to sign up. The cost is \$12.
- ▶ If you would like a hymnal to use at home for our streaming worship, please contact Pastor Martin.
- ▶ If you would like to purchase gifts for a needy family this Christmas, there is a link in the weekly email for an Amazon wish list, and instructions how to order.

*† We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, [www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org), or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.*

### **GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Rev. Martin McGeachy, Pastor  
Mary Temple, Music Director  
Diana Drake Behan, Church School Superintendent

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[www.gileadchurch.org](http://www.gileadchurch.org)

