

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Come, Come Emmanuel" arr. Mayo
Chapel Choir

Call to Worship Luke 3:4-6

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

**Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.**

The crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places made smooth.

All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

* Hymn 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Refining God,
you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.
We have not always determined what is best
or made way for your reign
in our lives, our church, and our society.
Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

* Response (Hymnal 95)

**Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of the Lord,
And all people will see the salvation of our God.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response (Hymnal 85, verse 2)

Light two candles to watch for Messiah;

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson: Luke 3:1-6 (NT, p. 60)

A Time with Children

Anthem "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Williams

Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4 (OT, p. 889)

Sermon: "God's Promise to the Filthy" Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" arr. Powell

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal, p. 8) and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

*Please hold the bread until all are served, so that we might share it as a sign
of our unity in Christ. As a sign of individual devotion and commitment, you
may drink the cup as you are served.*

Prayer after Communion

GO IN GOD'S NAME

- * Hymn 104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
- * Charge and Benediction
- * Postlude "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Cassler

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given in honor and thanksgiving to all choir members of First Presbyterian Church who raise their voices and lift the bells, leading the congregation in musical praise to the Glory of God.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgists	Members of the Chapel Choir
Usher	Gwynne Gilbert
Welcomers	Robert and Anne Deremer



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

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.'"

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.