

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Princeton, Kentucky
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:45 AM

Gathering Around the Word

CHIMES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *“The Christ of Every Crisis”* Lee Fisher

*CALL TO WORSHIP Jenny Franke

L: Come! Listen! A voice cries out: “In the wilderness,
prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.”

P: We wait for the peace of the coming Messiah.

L: Pay attention! God is removing barriers and leveling the playing field, making a way for all people to witness the glory of the Lord.

P: We wait for the peace of the coming Messiah.

L: We wait, and we work as God's landscapers, filling in valleys and making rough places a plain, bringing justice where conflicts and obstacles once reigned.

P: We wait for the peace of the coming Messiah.

L: As we gather, may we prepare our voices to proclaim
and our hands to get messy as our lives declare the coming
of our Savior and Comforter.

P: We wait for the peace of the coming Messiah.

*HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #88
 (verses 1, 2, 6 and 7)

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Susan Campbell and Pam Ortt

RESPONSE “While We Are Waiting, Come” #92
 (verse 1)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in your gracious presence
we confess our sin and the sin of this world.
Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are a people divided against ourselves
as we cling to the values of a broken world.
The fears and jealousies that we harbor**

**set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation.
We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom,
of intellect and reason.
Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us.
Set us free to serve you in the world
as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION
ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, believe the good news.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Proclaiming the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Jenny Franke

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11 (p.581) Jenny Franke
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Janie Tomek

ANTHEM “Come, Lord Jesus” Chancel Choir

SECOND LESSON 2 Peter 3:8-15a (p.988) Rev. Fortenberry
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “Found at Peace” Rev. Fortenberry

Responding to the Word

*HYMN *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"* #123

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from the Christian Reformed Church of America)

On that day we will see our Savior face to face, sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious. He will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked. We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior, whose shed blood declares us righteous. We live confidently, anticipating his coming, offering him our daily lives—our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love—knowing that he will weave even our sins and sorrows into his sovereign purpose. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

*GLORIA PATRI #581

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

unknown French Original

DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing and Following the Word Into the World

*HYMN *"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"* #94
(verses 1 and 2)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION Rev. Fortenberry

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #94
"Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed, come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need. In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view: child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you."

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POSTLUDE *"The Bond of Love"* Otis Skillings

*Will those who are able, please stand.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today	10 th	Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Youth Sunday School 9:45 AM Morning Worship 10:45 AM Children's Choir Christmas Program 5:00 PM
Thursday	14 th	Children's Choir 3:00 PM
Sunday	17 th	Adult Sunday School 9:45 AM Youth Sunday School 9:45 AM Morning Worship – Lessons & Carols 10:45 AM

The music for the anthem was given in memory of Nancy Beck, the mother of Nora Beck.

