

John the Baptist was an immensely popular figure in his day. "Jerusalem, and Judea, and all the region about the Jordan" went out to him, we are told. This popularity was quite possibly the result of John's message of repentance and forgiveness.



*John the Baptist*  
*The Second Sunday of Advent*  
*Service for the Lord's Day*  
 December 8, 2019

*Gathering Around the Word*

**Gathering Music**

**Striking of the Hour**

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Wilbur Held

*We Rise in Spirit and in Body*

**Call To Worship**

A shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots.

**He is Christ, and he welcomes us here.**

As one body, and with one voice, let us honor and glorify the Lord.

**He bears a spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of knowledge and awe before God.**

We rejoice in his promised coming!

**Let us worship God!**

Isaiah 11:1-2, adapted

**Opening Hymn 129**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN' ROS'

**Call to Confession**

The call to worship in Advent is a call to hope. What is more hopeful than life springing from a stump? What is more hopeful than the coming of our Savior?

Remember the message of John the Baptist. Sincere repentance will receive the favor of God's mercy.

The time of waiting can be an active time. Our Advent activity is preparation.

Writing in a time when the nation is under siege, Isaiah envisions a savior king.

## Prayer of Adoration and Confession

**Great God: you go before us, drawing us into the future where you are. We believe that one day you will come to bring all nations under your rule. We pray that you will make us ready for that day. We long for your promised peace, healing, and justice. But we confess we are not yet ready to live into the new age. Wherever our thoughts, and words, and actions have failed to reflect your purpose, we ask to be forgiven. For the ways we have resisted your way, we ask for mercy. Judge us now with compassion. Move us to true repentance. Make us subject to the rule of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*A Silence is observed for Personal Confession*

## Response Hymn

KYRIE

*Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

## Declaration of Good News

## Passing of the Peace

*As we greet the Lord, we greet one another in His name.*

### The Advent Wreath

## Lighting the Candle of Waiting and the Candle of Preparation

The Davenports

Leader: The prophet called John the Baptist repeated the words of Isaiah, saying, "Here the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord! On this second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles. One is the candle of watching and waiting. The second is the candle of preparation.

*The congregation remains silent, as two candles are lit.*

**All: We are being watchful. We will make preparation, to be ready for what the Lord will do.**

## Response Hymn 314

*Longing for Light*

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

First and Second Verses Only

## *Hearing the Word*

## Prayer for Illumination

## Old Testament Reading (Responsive)

**The Messianic King**

Isaiah 11:1-10

NRSV and a Paraphrase

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

**A fresh beginning on an ancient promise!** The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. **This is the spirit of life, from the creator of life; life as God intends!**

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **What is not right will not remain, but righteousness will remain.** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **The King of Kings will be dressed in righteousness and faithfulness.** The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **The kingdom of God is a peaceable kingdom.** The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. **Danger will not befall the weakest creatures; all will be well!** They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. **The breadth of the knowledge of God will be as the width of the oceans. (cont.)**

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. **All that has been promised will be fulfilled, by the offspring of Jesse, and of David.**

**Anthem**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion!*

John Carte

*All Stand*

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 3:1-12

**John's Baptism of Repentance Points to Jesus**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing, "Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

*The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight."*

John wore clothes made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. People from Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and all around the Jordan River came to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River. Many Pharisees and Sadducees came to be baptized by John. He said to them, "You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don't even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham's children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire. I baptize with water those of you who have changed your hearts and lives. The one who is coming after me is stronger than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can't be put out."

John's offer of cleansing repentance and baptism appealed to many. However, some, who claimed to be "children of Abraham" resisted.

**Sermon**

*The Peaceable Kingdom*

Matthew Covington

*All Stand*

**Response Hymn 77**

*Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old*

SAMANTHRA

### ***Responding to the Word***

*All Stand*

**Affirmation of Faith**

A Declaration of Faith, Chapter 10.2

**All things will be renewed in Christ. In Christ God gave us a glimpse of the new creation he has already begun and will surely finish. We do not know when the final day will come. In our time we see only broken and scattered signs that the renewal of all things is under way. We do not yet see the end of cruelty and suffering in the world, in the church, or in our own lives. But we see Jesus as Lord. As he stands at the center of our history, we are confident he will stand at its end. He will judge all people and nations. Evil will be condemned and rooted out of God's good creation. There will be no more tears or pain. All things will be made new. The fellowship of human beings with God and each other will be perfected. Amen**

The vision of renewal in Christ.

*All Sit*

**The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Wilbur Held

*All Stand*

**Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Bearing the Word into the Created World***

**Closing Hymn 543**

*O Christ, Surround Me*

GREEN TYLER

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*His Goodness Shall Follow Me Always*

Christopher Tambling

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*WELCOME VISITORS! We invite you to pick up visitor's information on your way out, either in the narthex or on the table on the right in the downstairs entrance hall. Ushers will be standing by to help you find them. Always know that a cordial greeting is extended by ministers, officers, and congregation.*

**Our church Elders:** Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, David Coverdale, Mary Evans, Rob Hale, Matt Hunt, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Tim Leigh, Nancy Moore, Pamela Napier, David Sears, and David Thomison. **Our church Deacons:** Rider Allen, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Rocky Cooper, Shannon Dyche, Ray Elms, Cathey Green, Jean Harris, Linda Leigh, Tom MacMillin, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Teri Polen, Charlotte Prow, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison, and Debbie Trickey.

***The Presbyterian Church Staff***

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*Choir Director*

*Dr. Wayne Pope*

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*Cedric Whitney*

*Sunday Sexton*

*Barbara Solberg-Hale*

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**Donate Online:**

We have recently set up the church website to accept online donations. Just go to the website below and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code.

<https://bgpresdonate.cloverdonations.com/online-donations/>



***The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101***

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## Announcements

**USHERS:** The Simmons, Moore, and Humphrey families

**LAY READER:** John Fitts

**MEDIA PERSONNEL:** Barbara Solberg-Hale and Matt Hunt

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS:** Alisia Mosley and Kimberly Watkins

**LIBRARIAN:** Arnie Petrus, [arfranpe@msn.com](mailto:arfranpe@msn.com)

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY,** December 15: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

### **TODAY**

**DEACON OF THE WEEK** this week will be Debbie Trickey. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

**CHILDREN'S MUSIC MEETS** Sundays at 9:00am. Please make regular attendance a priority. We always welcome new faces and all Kindergarten - 6th grade students welcome.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Our Sunday School offering has been designated to help Uspiritus (now Centerstone) purchase backpacks and suitcases for the children and youth in their care. Each quarter the CE Ministry will designate a particular non-budget project for the dollars we receive each Sunday. We will collect for Uspiritus through December.

**WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?** Each Sunday we come together to worship and learn about God. During the Sunday School hour, our children and youth attend class to hear the Bible and learn to apply it to their lives. Parents can follow up and continue learning at home!

**Preschoolers** learned about Joseph from Matthew 1:18-24. **Our Kindergarten - 3rd grade students** in Godly Play heard and responded to Luke 2:1-7 and the birth of Jesus. Isaiah 40:3-11 and preparing was the theme for **4th and 5th Graders**. **PLEASE READ** the scripture stories at home and ask your children what they heard. Wonder together what God wants you to know and do because of these stories! If you need a good storybook, ask Leslee or visit our Children's Library-we have a good selection. Especially with younger children, a good Bible storybook is important!

**OUR YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** will happen tonight! We will be meeting at 5:00pm at the Southern Lanes bowling alley before going for dinner after. For more information speak to David Clarke.

**ROOM IN THE INN HAS BEGUN.** HELP IS NEEDED IN ALL AREAS EVERY THURSDAY! Sign up sheets are available in the 10th Ave Lobby - many hands make light work and make a huge difference for our guests. Having a safe and warm place to sleep during the cold winter months is important and this ministry makes a big impact. Help once or often - every volunteer is valued and needed! See David Coverdale or Shannon Dyche.

### **COMING UP:**

**ADVENT WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER!** Join us this Wednesday December 11. Dinner is served at 5:30pm (**RSVP REQUIRED BY NOON TOMORROW**), with worship at 6:05pm. This week's menu is Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Sweet Potato or Pumpkin Pie. \$8 adults, \$5 children/youth, \$20 family maximum (same household). (Please note - if you make a reservation and do not cancel by our deadline of NOON on Mondays, we must request payment, as that is our caterer deadline. Apologies for any inconvenience.) This week's worship theme: What Advent says to Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

**HELP IS NEEDED ON WEDNESDAYS - SET UP, SERVING, CLEAN UP.** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f094aa9ab2ca7f49-advent3> to find a time to help. We are catering in our food and will need additional hands.

### **Calendar**

#### **Sunday, December 8**

8:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:00 a.m. Children's Music  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
9:45 a.m. Sunday Circle  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
5:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party

#### **Monday, December 9**

11:30 a.m. Circle 9  
5:00 p.m. Round Table Pulpit

#### **Tuesday, December 10**

11:00 a.m. Special Care  
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Evening Circle  
7:00 p.m. Sunny 16 Camera Club

#### **Wednesday, December 11**

9:15 a.m. Wed. Morning Circle  
5:30 p.m. Advent Dinner  
6:05 p.m. Advent Worship  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### **Thursday, December 12**

6:00 p.m. Room in the Inn

#### **Saturday, December 14**

10:00 a.m. Uspiritus Christmas Party

**CIRCLES** CIRCLE 9 will meet on Monday, December 9 at 11:30am. The TUESDAY EVENING CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The WEDNESDAY MORNING CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at 9:15am in the youth room.

**LESSONS AND CAROLS - A CENTURY OF TRADITION** - December 15 in worship: featuring the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir and Chimes, the Rainbow Ringers, members of the Collegiate Quartet, Wayne and Beth Pope and Tom Moody on organ in a variety of spirited and uplifting Christmas anthems of traditional carols and Christmas solos and duets. Members of the Symphony at WKU and music professor Sarah Berry on cello will provide string quartet accompaniment and highlights.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** after worship will be on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> following Lessons and Carols. Join us for a light lunch in fellowship hall at 11:30am, and then come along as we divide into groups and go caroling and visiting some members who cannot come to us!

**OTHER NEWS:**

**MANY, MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE** who helped with this weekend's many festivities. Our Gallery Hop folks were gracious as we prepared for the Market Friday evening. To all who helped with the many tasks for Saturday from passing out hot chocolate, serving brunch, helping greet folks, sell items and more! Watch for our update on how much was raised for Habitat and Living Waters for the World!

**CHRISTMAS AND SATURDAY MEALS** Each year our church helps to provide a food item for Christmas meal boxes for our community. We are now collecting cans of green peas for our contribution to the Saturday Meals Christmas food boxes. We will need a total of 264 standard (15oz) sized cans, and they may be brought to the church office at any time. Some volunteers will be needed on December 21 and 28 to help with delivery of boxes (21) and meals on the 28. Contact July Clark for details.

**T-SHIRTS** Margaret Stein will be in the 10th Street lobby selling the remainder of our 200th anniversary t-shirts. Please drop by and pick one up. \$20 per shirt; limited sizes available. Questions? Reach out to Margaret at [margaret f stein@hotmail.com](mailto:margaret_f_stein@hotmail.com).

**ART EXHIBIT** Artworks is currently featured in Fellowship Hall for a new exhibit. Be sure to stop by and see it! This show will run until January 16<sup>th</sup>.