

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

*A joyful community, gathered by God's grace,
sharing Christ's love with all.*



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

10:30 a.m.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of glory, who comes to meet us in places both expected and unexpected, reveal yourself to us in this time of worship and attune us to your appearing, so that we will not miss you in the midst of our busyness, boredom, or grief. Enlighten us in ways that change and transform our world, for we want to live as your faithful children, for the glory of Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

PRELUDE

“In the Bleak Midwinter”
Susan Carmichael-Kerry, Flute

arr. Chamberlain

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP – LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (The Candle of Love)

The Kerry Family: Steve, Susan, and Leanna

We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.... Please join me in prayer:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

HYMN (GTG) 110

“Love Has Come”
Verses 1 and 2

(Bring a Torch)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, the child in a manger forever calls us back to you. Yet we confess that we have not consistently listened. We have tried to ignore you, to deny your reality and make it through life on our own. We have tried to put you in the past or in a beautiful picture far removed from our lives. We have embraced fear, cynicism, doubt, and distraction more than we have embraced you. Forgive us for failing to see you, trust you, and love you fully. Forgive us for failing to respond to our neighbors this way too. Open our eyes and our hearts to your good news, so that we may dwell with you now and always, and serve you with wonder and gratitude through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(A time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN (GTG) 83 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” Verse 4
*By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 89:1-4; OT Page 545

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-11; NT Page 58

SERMON

“God of the Living Room”

Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Variations on *Away in a Manger*”
Dottie LaPenta, Harp

arr. Woods

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*A Declaration of Faith* 1977; Ch. 2, ¶1)

God created and rules in love. God created all the worlds that are and upholds and rules everything. We affirm that the universe exists by the power of God's Word and Spirit. God has chosen to give it reality out of the love we have come to know in Christ. God still works through the processes that shape and change the earth and the living things upon it. We acknowledge God's care and control in the regularity of the universe as well as in apparently random happenings. There is no event from which God is absent and God's ultimate purpose in all events is just and loving. That purpose embraces our choices and will surely be accomplished. The Creator works in all things toward the new creation that is promised in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer family of the week: David and Julie Jensen

Prayer institution of the week: Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Welcome to Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church!

If you are looking for a friendly church...

- † where you will be loved and accepted regardless of your age, class, race, ethnicity or orientation...
- † where you will be challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask your questions, and grow in your faith...
- † where God's desire for compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice and joy is preached...
- † where you are given the opportunity to put your faith into action through effective outreach ministries...

Then we hope to get to know you as a new friend at Prince of Peace. No matter who you are, or where you are in your life journey, you are welcome here! Join us and discover how much you are loved, how gifted you are, and how together, we can experience and share the kingdom of God here and now.

On behalf of everyone at Prince of Peace, WELCOME! We're glad you've found your way here today, and we hope you had a meaningful encounter with God while you were with us. Prince of Peace is a living faith community inspired by the Spirit of God, joyfully encouraging all and collectively committed to serving and caring for one another, praising God through worship, music, and mission, imparting to our children a love and understanding of Christ, welcoming all of God's people without prejudice or judgement, and growing together in numbers and in the likeness and grace of Christ.

If there is anything that we can do to make your visit more meaningful, or if there are any questions we can answer, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to the chance to meet you following worship, and hope you will take a moment to introduce yourself.

Once again, welcome – we're glad you're here!

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth D. McLean

If you are in need of prayer, you may call Deacon Steven Kerry (410-279-6545) with your prayer request, and the Prayer Support Team will lift these concerns in prayer.

CVLI License #504276496, CCLI License #11384570, One License #P-729751

The church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Pastor	Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean
Parish Associate	Rev. Dorothy LaPenta
Director of Music	Suzann Barthold
Nursery Attendant/Teacher	Kyera Hooks
Office Administrator • Office Assistant	Susan Carmichael-Kerry • Amy Lindberg

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