



**Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Online Worship Service
Sunday, December 6, 2020
Gathering Around the Word**

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Katie Day

Introit

I Wonder as I Wander
arr. Jason Tonioli

Hyoun Joo Song

Call to Worship

The Rev. Jody Andrade

One: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."

So, family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

**All: We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts.
We make space for God to speak.**

One: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

**All: We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel.
We open ourselves up to be moved.**

One: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

**All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.
We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.**

One: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

**All: We bring our full selves into this space.
We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.**

One: Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our daily lives.
So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.

Hymn 105

People, Look East (stanzas 1, 4, and 5)

105

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an-nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

This text was written to provide a new Advent text for an existing carol tune, here named for the city in eastern France where it originated. The author has imaginatively expressed the cosmic implications of Christ's coming by addressing each stanza to a part of creation.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Su-Reed Family

All: I dream of peace.

One: I dream to prepare the way, for more bridges and less walls, for more laughter and less fear, for more listening and less tears. Today we light the candle of peace, for peace is what good dreams bring. May this light remind us there is another way. May this light be our invitation to be Advent people—people who dream. Amen.

Response Hymn 383

Dream On, Dream On (stanza 1)

Dream on, dream on, children of peace, 'til on earth God's kingdom come.
Wolf and lamb will feed together ; lions like oxen will eat straw.
Dust shall be the serpent's food; no one shall destroy or hurt.
Children of earth in all colors, live in peace and harmony.

Call to Confession

Jody

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we wish that peace was something we could buy. We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service, found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot. We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when we are feeling our best. However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best. So today we confess, to you and with this community of faith, that we need your help in this Advent season. Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach me how to be a part of it. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

Jody

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Children's Sermon

The Rev. Jennie Sankey

Prayer for Illumination

Ivie Goorsky

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Ivie

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the

breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 1-8

Katie

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 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. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sermon

"Those Who Dream: Prepare the Way"

Katie

Sealing the Word in Our Lives

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Pastoral Prayer

Words of Institution

Anthem

Christ Child, Christ Child

Chancel Choir

by Howley Ades

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Responding to the Word

Invitation to Offering

Jennie

To give: ● return to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab or
● text givePHPC to 73256 or

- mail your offering to the church: 3700 Pleasant Hill Road Duluth, GA 30096

Prayer of Dedication

Jennie

Hymn 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (stanzas 1, 2, 6 and 7)

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, 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.</p> |
|--|--|

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)	Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)	Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)	Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)	
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)	Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)	

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

Following the Word into the World

Charge and Benediction

Katie

Postlude

“Come Now, Savior of the Nations”
by J. S. Bach

Hyoun Joo

This morning's liturgy is adapted from
Those Who Dream by Sarah Are
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