

<https://youtu.be/MFCnBRZr7vQ>

*Order of Worship, First Presbyterian Church*  
Sunday, December 6, 2020  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

*Announcements*

Rev. Stephanie Ells

*Minute for Mission*

“Joy Offering”

VeNita Fawcett

*Prelude*

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*arr. Hayes*

*For Prayer and Reflection:*

*Gracious God, Grant us hope as we prepare for our Lord’s birth. Amen.*

*Lighting of the Peace Candle*

Carol & Ella Jane Gunn

*Call to Worship*

What have you come to see?

**We have come to see the Light.**

The light of hope is here for you.

**God’s hope shines through our darkness.**

Come, worship the Lord of Light and Hope!

**Praise God for the breaking of light into our lives. Amen.**

*Opening Prayer*

*\*Hymn of Praise #153*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Hyfrydol*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear Desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Call to Confession*

***Prayer of Confession***

**Forgive us when we put our faith on a back burner and focus instead on pressures in our lives. Help us to take time to see your beam of direction which shines in our path, leading us to peace and hope. Clear our spirits of the frustrations and anxieties of this season, so that the Light which you are sending into the world will truly shine in and through us to others. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, our Hope and our Light.**

***Silent Confession*** (Here let each worshiper offer silent, personal prayers of confession)

***Congregational Response***

(tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem")

**"O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today."**

***Prayer for Illumination***

***First Scripture Reading***

Isaiah 40:1-11

***Special Music***

"A Christmas Prelude"

*arr. Engle*

***Second Scripture Reading***

Mark 1:1-8

***Sermon***

"Jesus is the Light of Hope"

***\*Hymn of Response #160***

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (vv. 1,3,4)

*Rejoice, Rejoice*

Awake! awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
Behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
He opens wide the heavenly door  
And lives now inside us forever.

In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,  
as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;

may God fill every day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

“Apostles’ Creed”

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Joys and Concerns***

***Prayers of the People and 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**\*Sending Hymn #176**

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

*Truro*

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:  
behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart:  
make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to you: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me your inner presence feel:  
your grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on,  
until the glorious crown be won.

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

“People Look East”

*arr. Amber*

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

***Leaders in worship:***

Liturgist: Beth Foxen  
Preacher: Rev. Stephanie Ells  
Music Director & pianist: Kristen Eby  
Special Music Director: Jill Klinebriel  
Musicians: Alex Eby, John Eby, Linda Longfield  
Technical Directors: Bryan and Sara Blair

***Lectionary Reading for December 13***

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
*Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
Words: Latin 9<sup>th</sup> c./Music: French  
melody; arr. Hayes  
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“A Christmas Prelude”  
Music: German carol; arr. Engle  
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“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”  
Words: Weissel/Music: Williams  
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“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
Words: Wesley/Music: Prichard;  
arr. Vaughn  
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“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”  
Words/Music: Haugen  
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“People, Look East”  
Words: Farjeon/Music: French melody;  
arr. Amber  
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“O Little Town of Bethlehem”  
Words: Brooks/Music: Redner  
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