

Sermon

'Preparing the Way'

Rev. Dr. Marc de Jeu

Pastoral Prayer and 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."

****Communion Hymn No. 134***

'Emmanuel'

(sing twice)

Communion

****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.

****Dedication of Offering***

****Dismissing Hymn No. 123***

'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'

(verses 1-2, 4)

****Benediction***

Postlude

'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks'

~ Handel

We're glad you joined us for worship today! We invite you to place your financial tithes and offerings in the basket in the back of the sanctuary before or following service. Thank you for placing the Bibles, hymnals and attendance books back on the chairs. Thank you.

CUP Officers...

*Elders: Jud Herter, Jale Haas, Cindy Vannoy, Pat Shawgo,
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CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“Join us for a drink of Living Water”



December 3, 2023
The First Sunday in Advent

We welcome you to the worship of God Almighty this Lord's Day. It is our intention to bring glory and honor to Him. God enters our time of worship and we remember this time belongs to Him. Your Worship Commission

**Please stand, if you are able.*

Nursery for children infant to 4 yrs. old is available upstairs in the Christian Education Wing (please see Usher for directions)

Meditation

"It has now been more than fifty years since that life-changing conversation. And however God has used me during those five decades, it all began with a gospel witness by an ordinary man, a high school football coach, who faithfully told me the Good News about Jesus Christ." ~ Thom Rainer

Westminster Chimes and Announcements

(During announcements, we ask members and visitors to please sign the Friendship Register and pass it on. Send them back down your row so you can note who is worshipping with you today. We invite visitors to give us your complete address.)

Opening Prayer

Prelude

'Of the Father's Love Begotten'

~ 13th Century Plainsong

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

The Copeland Family

Anthem

'Prepare the Way'

CUP Church Choir

***Call to Worship**

(based on Isaiah 40:3 NRSV)

Jud Herter, Lay Assistant

Leader: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,

People: make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Leader: As we worship today,

People: let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst,

Leader: in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

People: Therefore, let us worship God.

***Praise and Worship**

'Joy to the World'
'King of Kings'

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (In unison)

O God, we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and empower us to do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen. . . (silent prayers of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith** from Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 35

Since there is no other way of salvation than that revealed in the gospel, and since in the divinely established and ordinary method of grace faith comes by hearing the word of God, Christ has commissioned his church to go into all the world and to make disciples of all nations. All believers are, therefore, under obligation to sustain the ordinances of the Christian religion where they are already established, and to contribute by their prayers, gifts, and personal efforts to the extension of the kingdom of Christ throughout the whole earth.

Commissioning of the Pastoral Search Committee

Scripture Readings

Matthew 3:1-12

Leader: The Word of the Lord ~

People: Thanks be to God ~

Lg. print #1499 / pew #682

Lg. print / New ed. #1470