



**Greenhills Community  
Church, Presbyterian**  
21 Cromwell Road,  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45218  
513-825-8400  
ghccp.org

Second Sunday of Advent: PREPARE  
**December 4, 2022, 10:00**

Guest Speaker  
Rev. Michael Wheatley

**Zoom Codes: 824 7351 2283  
pw 994319**

[\* At this sign, please rise in body or in spirit; **bold text** indicates congregation's responses.]

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Liturgist:** Lee Sanders

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Advent Candle**    *IN SEARCH OF OUR KNEELING PLACES*                      *A. Weems*

In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not. When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in his. When we are Bethlehem-bound we can no longer look the other way conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices. We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

**Prayer of the Day**

In this season of bumper-to-bumper stress, with life more crowded than the stores, God, You welcome us to a feast of faithfulness, where we may sit in peace and gentleness.

In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks, with people too busy to offer words of compassion, Your Son, Jesus, whispers of hope for broken hearts and sings carols of justice for all the outsiders. In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy, Your Holy Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond 140 characters. May these be the days when we will discover how near is your kingdom. Amen

**\*Hymn #106**

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

**Call to Reconciliation**

All too often, we believe God's vision of justice and peace is only for us, not those around us. We are sure others need to be cleansed and forgiven, but not us. Let us seek to live as if, indeed, the kingdom is coming near, as we offer our prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living, as we pray together, saying,

**Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

**Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the detritus of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust.**

**We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by You, while You hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope.**

**Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*Silence is kept.*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Here is the good news: speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance of grace.

**Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! So, let us welcome others with open arms, just as we have been embraced in God's love and laughter. Amen.**

### **\*Response #83**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

STUTTGART (v. 2)

### **The Peace**

Because of Emmanuel, God-with-us, we can live in peace with God and work for peace with one another. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also, with you.**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

Holy God, by your gift of the Living Word, Jesus Christ, you gave grace to the world. Today, by the power of the written and spoken Word, offer us enlightenment, inspiration, and strength to receive your continuing gifts. May we live in faith and love, sharing joy and peace with the world, in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Old Testament Lesson**

Isaiah 11:1-10

NRSV OT, p. 640

### **Musical Offering**

### **Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 3:1-12

NRSV NT, p. 2

### **Sermon**

Rev. Michael Wheatley

### **\*Hymn #129**

*Lo, How a Rose*

ES IST EIN ROS

### **We Present Our Tithes and Offerings**

*(Prayer concerns may be placed in the offering plates.)*

### **Invitation**

In the season of Advent, we are often reminded that Jesus is 'the greatest gift.' Let us bring our own gifts to God and for the Kingdom.

### **Offertory**

### **\*Doxology #606**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

May your Spirit of generosity rest upon us, Caring God, so that our giving does not end here, but only begins to flow forth in a baptism of hope, of grace, of healing, and of peace to all around us, as well as those we may never meet. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### **The Lord's Supper**

*[Communion service proceeds as led by Rev. Michael Wheatley.]*

### **Prayer after Communion**

#### **\*Hymn #96**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WINCHESTER NEW

### **\*Invitation to Discipleship**

John the Baptist exhorts us to prepare the way of the Lord. But what does that mean? We are to be messengers of peace and unity, speaking truth to power. But how do we do that? Sometimes all of that seems just as impossible as a lion bedding down with an ox or a cow grazing with a bear. But this is a season of impossible things.

Pick something "impossible" to work on this week, and take just one step toward it, remembering the Advent promise that God--Emmanuel--is with us.

### **\*BENEDICTION**

As you leave the comfort and security of this sanctuary, remember to prepare your own heart for the coming of Christ. To the extent that it is possible, help to prepare the lives you touch by sharing the glory of His coming in thought, word, and deed. Amen.

### **Postlude**

*(Please be seated to enjoy the Postlude.)*

### **Sources:**

The poem "*IN SEARCH OF OUR KNEELING PLACES*," by Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.  
Liturgy adapted from *lectionary liturgies.blogspot.com*.

### **Participants:**

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Michael Wheatley

**Music Director:** Brad Caldwell

**Sound:** Cliff Kizuka, Jim Hadley

**Zoom Hosts:** Vince Greene, Jim H.

**Communion Servers:** Donna & Jim Hadley, Mary & Chris Newcomer

**Liturgist:** Lee Sanders

**Ushers:** Mary & Chris Newcomer

**Greeters:** Donna & Jim Hadley

**Counters:** Bobbe Kugele, Paul Odegard

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DATES

### TODAY

#### **Our guest preacher**

Rev. Michael Wheatley is a retired pastor having served most recently the West Chester Presbyterian Church for 29 years. In retirement, he has transitioned to part-time work in the climbing industry, which he describes as his “second calling” from God.

**Fellowship time** downstairs after the service. Lee Sanders will lead us in a final look at “Holy Disruption”—Advent through the lens of the Gospel of Mark.

Forms for ordering **poinsettias** are attached to the bulletin. Completed forms must be in the Office by next Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

### THIS WEEK

#### **Monday, December 5**

- PNC, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Room 210
- AA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 209
- Square Dancing, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

#### **Tuesday, December 6**

- Prayer Shawl Group, 1:30 p.m., Room 210
- Square Dance Class, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

#### **Wednesday, December 7**

- Support group, 6:30-7:30, Room 204 (contact Dr. Stephen Benoit for info: call at 513-909-4242 or message at [Stephencbenoit@outlook.com](mailto:Stephencbenoit@outlook.com))
- AA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Room 209
- Al-Anon, 7:00 p.m., Room 210
- Square Dancing, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

#### **Thursday, December 8**

#### **Friday, December 9**

- AA Meeting, 10:30 a.m., Room 209

#### **Saturday, December 10**

- Pro Bono Counseling, 11:00 – 1:00, Room 204 (see contact info above)
- Square Dancing, 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, December 11**, after the Worship service, the pot-luck luncheon will be held. It's not too late to sign up and offer to bring a dish to share. See Valerie Dauwe.

**POINSETTIA ORDER FORM**

Flowers are a beautiful and traditional part of our Christmas Service and offer us an opportunity to make dedications to God, family, and friends.

This year the cost of the Poinsettias is \$14.00 per plant.

Orders are due by **Sunday, December 11th.**

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

The poinsettia is:

\_\_\_ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to GCCP; please write "Poinsettias" on the memo line. Payment at time of order is greatly appreciated. Place your order and check in the collection plate or return to the GCCP Office.

Thank you.