

**Service of Worship**  
Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2015

10:30 AM

Welcome to this service of Worship and Holy Communion. The Lord's Table is open to all who come seeking the presence and peace of Christ. The cup contains unfermented juice, and we serve gluten-free bread.

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**GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**      *Come, Savior of the Nations*      Bach

**CHIMES**

**INTROIT**      *Prepare Ye/Praise for this Day*

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**      *The Advent Candle – "Peace"*

Leader: We are a people of hope. Last Sunday the frail light of a single candle dared to pierce through the darkness of desolation and sin. (*first candle lit*)

**All: Hope lives in us and will abide with us.**

Leader: Today we light the candle of Peace. (*second candle lit*)

**All: This light, too, must brave great darkness.**

Leader: In an age when people so seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under the impact of war, we light a candle called peace.

**All: Peace that is not merely the absence of war and conflict, but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all—that is the peace for which we dare to hope.**

Leader: The Christ, the Prince of Peace, comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

**All: In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.**

\*HYMN # 128 (vss. 1 & 2)

*One Candle Lit*

\*PRAYER OF PEACE (*let us pray together . . .*)

**O God, we thank you for the peace that is in our hearts because Christ has revealed your love to us. May the power of your Holy Spirit bless this day and the coming weeks of preparation that we might be ready to receive Christ in our hearts and homes anew, serving Him in all we say and do. Amen.**

\*MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Glory to God*

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)  
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est!  
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in ex-cel-sis De-o!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

\*May be sung as a canon.

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## GOD'S WORD BOTH ANCIENT AND NEW

### SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament Malachi 3:1-4 OT pg. 889

### ANTHEM # 121

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

### SCRIPTURE READING

The Gospel Luke 3:1-6 NT pg. 60

### CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*(Children through second grade may go to the nursery.)*

### SERMON

## GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

### OFFERING

**Offertory** *Once He Came in Blessing* Walther

### \*ADVENT DOXOLGY

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Em G C D7 G D G C G  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em  
here. . . . be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

### \*Prayer of Dedication *(let us pray together . . . )*

**God of comfort and new beginnings, we turn back to you again, and bring to you these gifts of money, of creativity, and of ourselves, asking that you bless them, and us. May these gifts bring comfort to many. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God most high.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Into the silence of chaos, your voice cried, Comfort of the Ages, your Word flinging open the doors of goodness and beauty, the Spirit speeding over the waters to bring peace to all creation. Refusing to wait for all which you had promised to us, we made straight for death, running down the dusty road of sin. Prophets cried out to us while we were in this wilderness, but our tantrums drowned out their invitations to return to you. Since peace was your hope for us, and salvation is your steadfast gift, you sent your Child, Jesus, to become the Way for us.

So, with those who have waited in every time and place, and with those who try to lead lives of godliness and goodness, we lift our voices filled with longing for your comforting presence and sing together, hymns of unending praise:

## SUNG RESPONSE

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!  
San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra!

My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly, Lord!  
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res, Se - ñor!

## COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Send your Spirit to rest upon these gifts of the field and the vine. Take the common loaf, and by your mercy, transform it into the life we need. Remind us that when we hunger for more, you feed us with humility that we might see the emptiness of our world, and offer ourselves to fill it with your gifts. As you hand the cup of salvation to us, may it quench our desire for more and more, that we might give all we have, and all we are called to be, as a healing for a broken creation.

And when your love gathers us up and leads us to your banquet in the kingdom, where we are seated with our sisters and brothers, we will sing our songs of thanksgiving to you: Creator of goodness, Friend of the lost, Spirit of joy, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION *with the Lord's Prayer*

*The Lord's Prayer (in unison)*

**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.**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The elements will be served in the pews. Please hold the elements and we will partake together. All are welcome!*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(Let us pray together.)*

**Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice and pray. Amen.**

## GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

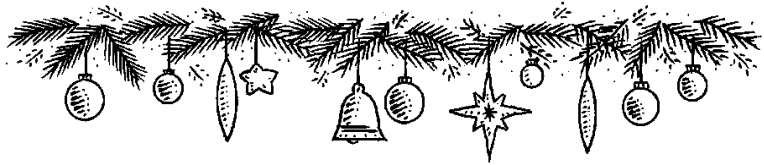
**\*HYMN # 119** (vss. 2 & 3) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**CHIMES**

**POSTLUDE** *Come, Saviour of the Nations* Pachelbel

\*those who are able, please stand.



The Homer Congregational Church wishes you a joyous Advent and Christmas season. Plan to join us for our worship together.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13**

10:30 AM – Worship

On the third Sunday of Advent we light the Advent candle of joy.

Our time will be filled with wiggles, giggles and enthusiasm as we hear anew the Christmas story through children.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

10:30 AM – Worship

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the Advent candle of love and participate in a musical service.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

The Service of Lessons and Carols follows an ancient custom of placing music between scripture readings. The service concludes with a candle lighting custom.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP

Join us for a service of music and scripture that will also include musical gifts by members.

Come, Let Us Adore Him!”

At each entrance to the sanctuary you will find an Advent/Christmas devotional that can assist you in your spiritual journey. The devotional is filled with readings and suggestions for all ages.

**Update from the Board of Deacons**

Many things have been happening behind the scenes. There are numerous administrative tasks that are being undertaken at this time so that our church is in order so that we are ready to call a new pastor. Pastor Kathleen has been instrumental in walking us through the process of what needs to be done.

At the November Deacons' meeting:

- The Deacons met with Terry Pederson and Tracy Bertram of Christian Education Ministry Committee (CEM) to discuss collaboration while CEM continues to seek a Director of Christian Education (DCE).
- In addition to seeking a DCE, we will also be looking to hire a Child Care Coordinator for the nursery - details about the position can be found on the church's website. Representatives of the Deacons, Trustees and CEM will be part of the search committee.
- We all discussed the mission and scope of CEM and we talked about how we might work together to extend Christian Education to children of all ages and adults as we move forward.
- The Deacons were briefed about the Transition Team's work and where they are in their process.
- We continue to “live into” our new bookkeeping process. Bonnie Haaland continues to work closely with Jan Jeffers, Bev Berry and particularly with Andrea Herzog-O’Hara to smooth out the wrinkles.
- The Deacons formed a 2016 budget-working group and another small group continues to work on the Deacons Handbook.
- JoAnne Cincotta will coordinate this year's Poinsettia Drive along with Donna Piotti.
- The Deacons continue to seek someone to fill an open seat on our board.
- We have offered for our church to host the Susquehanna Associations possible work shop entitled: “Sacred Conversation about Race.” The event is in the planning stages.
- Bill and Belinda will begin Stephen Ministry classes in January. The class requires 50 hours of training.
- Kathleen gave the Deacons a Congregational Care update.

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

**Ushers and Greeters**

Barbara and Peter Wright,  
Leslie and Eugene Wright

**Worship Leader**

Vicki Johnson

**Acolytes**

John Gumaer,  
Kenian Ulrich

**Nursery Volunteers**

Sue Urban,  
Marissa Urban

**Flowers**

**Coffee Hour**

David and Anne Barnes

**Attendance**

November 29 - 78

*Save the Date: **Sunday, December 13** is the Children's Pageant, "Were You There." Following the pageant, Christian Education Ministry and the Youth Group will host an all-church Christmas Party.*

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of December 6**

**TODAY – December 6**

9:15 am – Sunday School classes,  
The Well  
10:30 am – Worship service  
11:45 am – Transition Team  
presentation  
11:45 am – Stephen Ministry  
meeting  
11:45 am – CEM meets

**MONDAY – December 7**

*Donna vacation day –office  
closed*  
9:00 am – Boundary Awareness  
training  
7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in RFR

**TUESDAY – December 8**

2:00 pm – Senior Fellowship  
Club

**WEDNESDAY – December 9**

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – December 10**

Noon – Bible Study group

**SUNDAY – December 13**

*Children's Christmas Pageant*  
9:15 am – Sunday School classes,  
The Well  
10:30 am – Worship service  
11:45 am – All-Church Christmas  
Party

**NOTES AND NOTICES**

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**Survey Says!!!!** For the last five months the Transition Team has sought to lead a multi faceted congregational study. In September the congregation participated in a survey created by *US Congregational Life Survey*. You are invited to see and discuss the results **today** following the worship service. For those unable to attend today, a second gathering will be held in the Board Room following our Christmas party on **December 13**. If you are unable to attend at either time let one of the members of the Transition Team know and a time for you can be arranged. We want all to participate in this process.

**Gifted to Care.** Spiritual gifts are gifts to give away. God gives them to us, and we use them to serve others. How are you using your gifts right now? Are you looking for a new way to use them? If your spiritual gifts include one or more of the following— faith, mercy, teaching the faith, encouragement, or listening—consider Stephen Ministry, our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. Contact *Bill Masterson (345-4874)* or *Belinda Burtner (756-2454)* to learn more about this ministry. We will be hosting a brief informational meeting for prospective **Stephen Ministers** after worship **today**. A light lunch will be served.

Our **Mitten Tree** was put up on November 29 and will be awaiting your donations of new hats, gloves and mittens which will be donated for holiday gift baskets. Thank you for your continued generosity in support of this mission. Donations will be delivered on Wednesday, December 16.

**Senior Fellowship Club** will meet **Tuesday** at **2:00** pm in the Russell Fellowship Room. Vicki Johnson will share Christmas music.

**The Homer Congregational Church seeks a Child Care Coordinator.** This is a part-time position, approximately 3-4 hours per week with presence required on Sunday mornings and during other events as requested. Normal duties are performed in the church facility. To apply, send resume to Resumes@homercc.org. Job description is available on our web site at www.homercc.com. For more information contact Karen Dudgeon.