December 10th, 2023 10:30 a.m. DIGITAL BULLETIN

Rev. David S. Vallelunga, Pastor; Kay Keen, Liturgist;

Rev. Brian Peterson, Choir Director; Minda Fernish, Pianist; Christina Wong, Zoomlogist

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Dave

GREETING ONE ANOTHER IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP (sung to SLANE)

**We light two candles and pray for the day**

**when justice and mercy and kindness hold sway;**

**off’ring compassion, to all, everywhere,**

**known for the actions and love that we dare!**

**Advent is time for reflection on life, for**

**righting of wrongs and for healing of strife,**

**brothers and sisters, united by love,**

**seeking the wholeness that comes from above.**

HYMN # 209 “Blest Be the God of Israel”

**Blest be the God of Israel,**

 **who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,**

**of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise**

**to bring his people peace.**

**Now from the house of David**

**a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,**

**forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.**

**On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness**

**upon the sinner’s eyes.
To guide the feet of pilgrims**

**along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior,**

**with songs that never cease!**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US Pastor Dave

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

WE GATHER OUR PRAYERS BEFORE SINGING

SONG # 184 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**Of the Father’s love begotten,**

**ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,**

**He the Source, the Ending He,
of the things that are, that have been,**

**and that future years shall see;**

**evermore and evermore!**

**O that birth forever blessed,**

**when a virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,**

**bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,**

**first revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!**

*Silent Prayers Pastoral Prayer*

**O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;**

**angel hosts, His praises sing:
pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him,**

**and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,**

**every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to Thee with God the Father,**

**and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving**

**and unwearied praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!**

GOSPEL Mark 1. 1-8 Liturgist

MUSICAL INSPIRATION “Bethlehem Wind”

HOMILY “Learning from Loonies” Pastor Dave

OFFERTORY

ADVENT DOXOLOGY and PRAYER of CONSECRATION

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,**

**praise God, all creatures here on earth below;**

**praise God above, ye heavenly host,**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel**

**shall come to thee, O Israel!**

CLOSING HYMN # 210 “All Earth is Waiting”

**All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of the Lord!
All the world, bound and struggling,**

**seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice, and searches for the truth.**

**Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
for his name is 'God with us', our brother shall be;
with him hope will blossom**

**once more within our hearts.
Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all, and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**

**In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.**

BLESSING *Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Exercise caution in your life, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere, life is full of heroism.
Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy. (Max Ehrmann)*

POSTLUDE