

## SERMON

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

#### ↑RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD IN SONG

*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

GTG #163

#### PROCLAIMING WHAT WE BELIEVE WITH THE 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 Spirit, 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 is seated 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### ↓GIVING OF OURSELVES TO GOD IN THANKSGIVING

#### OFFERING OF MUSIC

*The Prophet Speaks*

#### ↑GIVING GLORY TO GOD

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

GTG #606

**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.**

#### PRAYER DEDICATING OUR GIFTS TO GOD'S WORK

#### ↓PRAYING FOR GOD'S MERCY

We especially pray for ...

We give you thanks for all that is good in our lives and all that you have given to us. May we have wisdom and strength to follow and do your will.

We thank you especially for ...

We pray all these prayers and the prayers deep within as we pray with all of the saints in every time and every place the prayer your Son taught us, and we are bold to pray:

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory now and forever. Amen.**

#### BEING SENT FORTH TO LOVE AS CHRIST LOVES US

#### ↑GIVING THANKS TO GOD IN SONG

*Soon and Very Soon*

GTG #384

#### CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*Behold, He Comes*

**THE HOUR OF WORSHIP HAS ENDED;  
WE GO FORTH TO SERVE OTHERS  
NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS**

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PEACE

Prepare the way  
of the Lord

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Making Disciples - Making a Difference*

December 8, 2024

9:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent

[www.northpres.church](http://www.northpres.church)

607-734-2977

## **WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP**

*Fill us with your holy love, O Lord,  
and open the treasures of your wisdom to us.  
You alone know all that we desire.  
So complete what you have begun in us,  
and answer the prayers you instill in us  
through the stirrings of your Holy Spirit.  
Even as we seek your face,  
turn to us and show us your glory.  
Then our longing will be satisfied,  
and our peace will be complete. Amen.  
Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)*

↑Please stand, as you are able. ↓Please be seated.

### **GATHERING**

#### **WELCOME**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **QUIETING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS** *(Responsive)*

*The Lord be with you!*  
**And also with you.**

*Let us quiet our hearts and our minds as we gather together to worship the Lord.*

#### **PRELUDE**

*How Beautiful the Feet of Them*

#### **GATHERING AS THE BODY OF CHRIST** *(Gospel According to Luke 1:68-79, Zechariah's Song)*

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.*  
**He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,**

*As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,*  
**That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

*Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,*  
**The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us**

*That we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,*  
**In holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.**

*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,*  
**For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

*To give his people knowledge of salvation*  
**By the forgiveness of their sins.**

*Because of the tender mercy of our God,*  
**The dawn from on high will break upon us,**

*To shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,*  
**To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **↑GIVING PRAISE TO GOD IN SONG**

*Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty*

sing 2x

#### **↓CALL TO ADMIT OUR SINS AND TO TURN TO GOD**

*A voice crying out in the wilderness: Repent! For the kingdom of God has come near. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins against God and neighbor.*

#### **ADMITTING OUR SINS AND TURNING TO GOD IN PRAYER** *(Unison)*

**God of our past, our present, and our future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and your peace.**

**In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

#### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

#### **THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS** *(Responsive)*

*Hear the good news! Every valley is lifted up; every mountain made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **↑GIVING GLORY TO GOD**

*Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)*

GTG #581

**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, amen.**

#### **SHARING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST** *(Responsive)*

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let us live by and be guided by the Holy Spirit in all things, including how we treat one another.*

*The peace of the Lord be with you all.*  
**And also with you.**

*Please exchange the peace of our Lord with one another in the way you are comfortable.*

#### **↑GIVING PRAISE TO GOD IN SONG**

*A Voice Cries Out*

vs. 2 & 4

#### **CHANCEL CHOIR**

*Bring Us Hope*

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

#### **↓PRAYER FOR THE GUIDANCE AND WISDOM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

The Book of Malachi 3:1-4

#### **GATHERING OF THE CHILDREN**

#### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE**

#### **HYMN**

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

vs.2

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

The Gospel According to Luke 3:1-6