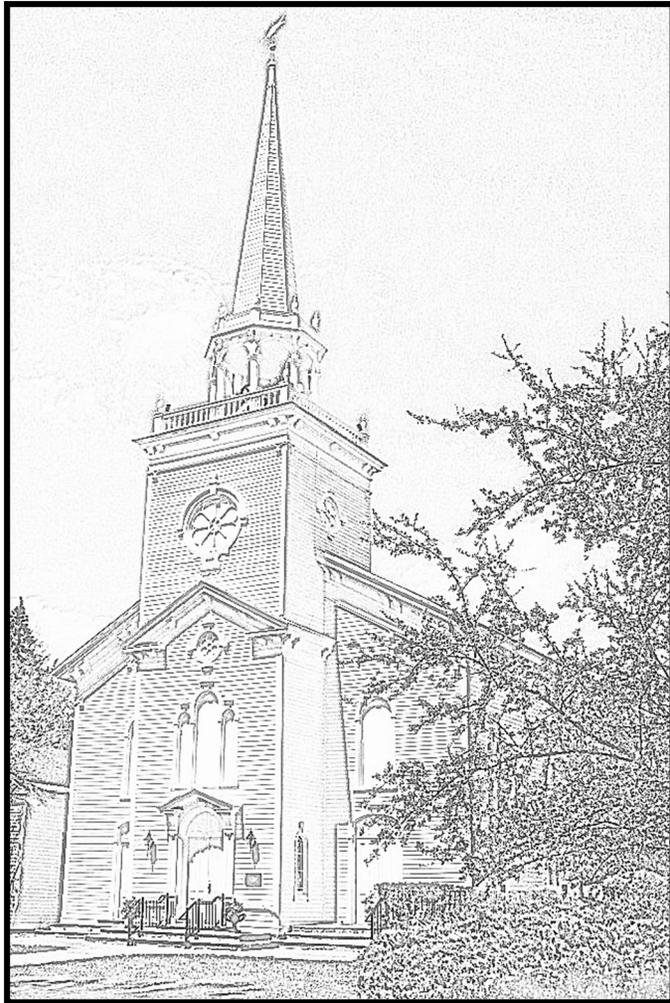


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Cazenovia, New York

In the Heart of the Village

www.cazpres.org

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

December 6, 2020

PRELUDE “Veni Emmanuel” Moser

WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

INTROIT “The Wonder of Christmas” Raney

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY (Responsive)

During Advent, we recall God's promises spoken through the prophets.

The word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the hurting, God promises unshakable hope.

The word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the forsaken, God promises unconditional love.

The word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the broken, God promises unmerited grace.

The word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

To the heavy hearted, God promises unbridled joy.

The word of the Lord is steadfast and true.

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

RESPONSE

There is wonder in the hope
of the birth of a king,
there is wonder in the sound
of the angels as they sing.
O come, O come, Emmanuel.
and join us here.

ADVENT PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray for your continued guidance through this Advent season. As we prepare to once again celebrate the greatest gift offered to the world, we pray for our hearts to be filled with wonder, for our steps to be guided by faith, and for our hope to be anchored in the certainty of your Word. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” No. 10

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail You as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward;
O let us Your face upon us shine
And fill the world with love divine.

4 All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Spirit, evermore.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God’s salvation is at hand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love.

Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in right paths to the glory of your name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

Thanks be to God.

SHARING GOD’S GIFTS

God has given us every good gift, that all may be blessed.
Like John, may our righteousness go before God and prepare a pathway for the Lord.
Let us offer our lives and labor to God, that through us God may bless the earth.

Offering Plate is in the Narthex, or may give online through our website, cazpres.org.

DOXOLOGY

No. 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day lift up those in need and prepare the way of your salvation. **Amen.**

HYMN

“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”
(verses 1-3)

No. 308

1 O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air:
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today;
Of Jesus’ birth and peace on earth
The angels sing away.

2 O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy,
O sing of fragrant flowers’ breath,
And of the sinless Boy;
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow;
Now spreads the fame of His dear Name
On all the winds that blow.

3 O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of Him who walked upon the sea
And bade the waves be still:
For though, like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master’s word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 40:1-11

- 40** Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.
3 A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
6 A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
8 The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;^[a]
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,^[a]
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news^[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.^[b]

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,^[c]

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,^[d]
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴ John the baptizer appeared^[e] in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with^[f] water; but he will baptize you with^[g] the Holy Spirit."

SERMON "Prepare the Way"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice" No. 409

1 Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized,
yield your life to God's control.

2 "Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

3 With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata in C Minor" Walther