

**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**PRELUDE** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" arr. Hayes

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ADVENT CANDLE** Max Harman  
"Advent's Holy Light" Raney

*You are invited to join in singing (the music is on an insert):*

**Lord, we are waiting for peace to reign.**

**Lord, we are listening for love's refrain.**

**For hope, peace, and joy and love to unite**

**in the beauty and wonder of Advent's holy light.**

*Then, join in this litany:*

In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

For the storms that sometimes rage within us

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

**We humbly seek the gift of peace.**

*Then we will repeat the refrain.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**+HYMN: GTG #83** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" STUTTGART

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened.**

**We have not always determined what is best**

**or made way for your reign**

**in our lives, our church, and our society.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

... In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN: GTG #87** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" GENEVAN 42

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Children and youth are dismissed to Sunday School*

+ Those who are able may stand. 1 GTG = *Glory to God* (purple hymnal)

**MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE** Mary Garland Jackson

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "Prepare the Way" Barrett  
Sanctuary Choir with Paul Melse (bongos)

**+RESPONSE: GTG #113** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain) GLORIA  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**+PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** from *The Heidelberg Catechism*  
(Germany, 1563)

Q. What does it mean that Jesus "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

**A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Malachi 3:1-4 O.T. page 688  
*The messenger refines and purifies*

**CANTICLE** Luke 1:68-79 (the Canticle of Zechariah)  
*God's tender compassion*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel;

you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,**

**born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old

to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us,

**to show mercy to our forebears,**

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

**holy and righteous before you,**

**all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation**

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness**

**and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Philippians 1:3-11 N.T. page 152  
*A harvest of righteousness*

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 3:1-6 N.T. page 45  
*Prepare the way of the Lord*

**RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE** *Matt. 3:2*

Repent and return to God;

the realm of heaven is at hand.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM** "Every Valley" Martin

**SERMON** "I Will Send My Messenger" Rev. Bill Pinches

**+HYMN: GTG #106** BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
*"Prepare the Way, O Zion"*

**+CHARGE**

I am confident of this:

that the one who began a good work in you

will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Amen.**

**+BLESSING** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *Phil. 4:23*  
**Alleluia!**

**+CHORAL BENEDICTION** "Sevenfold Amen" Stainer

**POSTLUDE** "See Amid the Winter's Snow" Goss

**You are invited to join us  
for fellowship and refreshments  
after worship in the Memorial Room.**  
*It is not necessary to remain seated during the postlude.*

**SERVING US TODAY**

**Liturgist:** Barbara Georgescu

**Greeters:** Vicki Drown and Sally Hughes

**Next Week's Greeters:** Jerry Ambrose and Vern Schrock

**Sound:** Marty Subject

**Livestream:** Tami Chapman

**Security:** Tim Hammond

**Today's flowers are given by**

Sally Hughes

in memory of

Harley & Grace Ankley

and Richard & Merle Callender

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Melissa Baker	Dec. 8	Andrew Mackey	Dec. 11
Rick Cote	Dec. 13	Tim Hammond	Dec. 13
Eric Foster	Dec. 14	Jane Somerville	Dec. 14

### CHURCH HISTORY IN MINIATURE

#### **#10: Resistance:**

The apostles Peter and John boldly refuse to obey the order of the Jewish Council and the High Priest not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus.

(Acts 3:1—4:31)

### THE STUDY CATECHISM

**Question 34. What is the significance of affirming that Jesus is also truly a human being?**

Being truly human, Jesus entered fully into our fallen situation and overcame it from within. By his pure obedience, he lived a life of unbroken unity with God, even to the point of accepting a violent death. As sinners at war with grace, this is precisely the kind of life we fail to live. When we accept him by faith, he removes our disobedience and clothes us with his perfect righteousness.

### CREDITS

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## Mason First Presbyterian Church

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www.masonpresbyterian.org

Office hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### MINISTERS

All Members

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Bill Pinches

**Parish Associate:** Rev. Dr. Jim Hegedus

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Charlie Herrick

**Spiritual Growth Director:** Lori Filka

**Sanctuary Choir Director / Bell Choir Director:** Deb Melse

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessman

**Financial Secretary:** Jess Weber

**Choral Music Accompanist:** Le Ji

**Sexton:** Eric VanDyke

**Office Assistant:** Nancy Sue MacDonald

**Adult Spiritual Growth Coordinator:** Michelle Mackey

**Child Care:** Jill Castle, Hannah Koutz, Jasmine Leffew,  
Violet Mackey, Sam Pinches, Lucy Simons, Keren Tayong

### ELDERS

**Class of 2024:** Jerry Ambrose, Lucinda Davenport, Loren Harkness, Tonya Seely.

**Class of 2025:** Doreen Chapman, Mary Garland Jackson, Monte Shuck.

**Class of 2026:** Bruce Archer (*Clerk of Session*), Ginnie Gibson,  
Jane Hamelink, Tim Hammond

**Elders-Elect:** Travis Archer, Dan Baker, Evelyn Tayong, Steve Sowles  
(three-year terms); Greg Lang (one-year term)

### DEACONS

**Class of 2024:** Donna Hujsak (*Secretary*), Issie Nielsen, Camille Subject.

**Class of 2025:** Marge Clarke, Julie Dart, Timothy Pinches,  
Tom Seely (*Moderator*).

**Class of 2026:** Ron Dlouhy (*Treasurer*), Bill Leutscher, Sandy Leutscher,  
Nancy Sue MacDonald, Laurie McGonigal

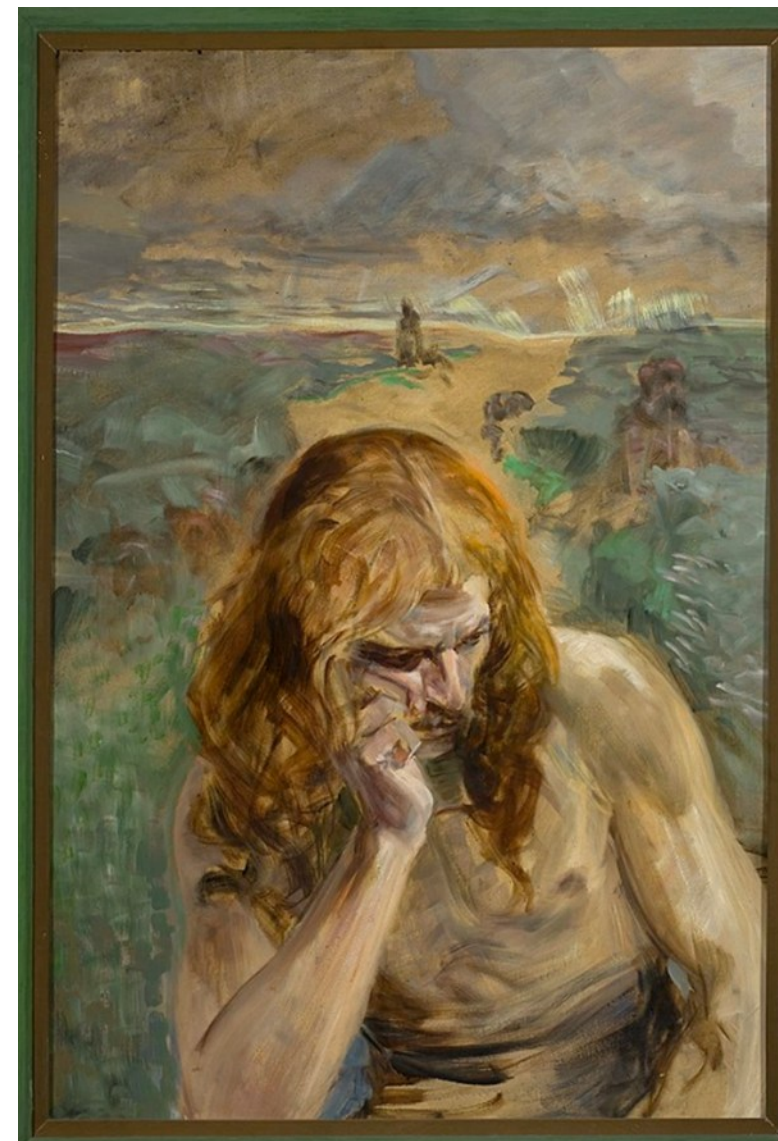
**Deacons-Elect:** Donna Archer, Rick Cote, Debbie Johnson, Issie Nielsen

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

<b>Today</b>	Adult Sunday School ( <i>Calling All Angels</i> )	11:30 am
<b>Monday</b>	Mission Gathering	3:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Friends!	3:30 pm
	Worship and Music Committee	6:00 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lunch Packing for Advent House	10:15 am
	Prayer Fellowship ( <i>in the Chapel</i> )	12:00pm
	Wonderful Wednesday	4:00—6:00 pm
	Wednesday Night Dinner	6:00 pm
	Bell Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:10 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	Finance Committee	8:00 am
	Spiritual Growth Committee	6:00 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Church Office closed / Pastor’s Sabbath	

# Mason First Presbyterian Church

## December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent



*St. John the Baptist*  
by Jacek Malczewski, 1911

*A warm and caring Christ-centered community of faith,  
actively serving and nurturing one another and our neighbors,  
embracing diversity, and fostering spiritual growth*