

Carol of Resistance

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Benediction

Handbell Benediction

Postlude

“Picardy (Improvisation)”

arr. Rick Deasley

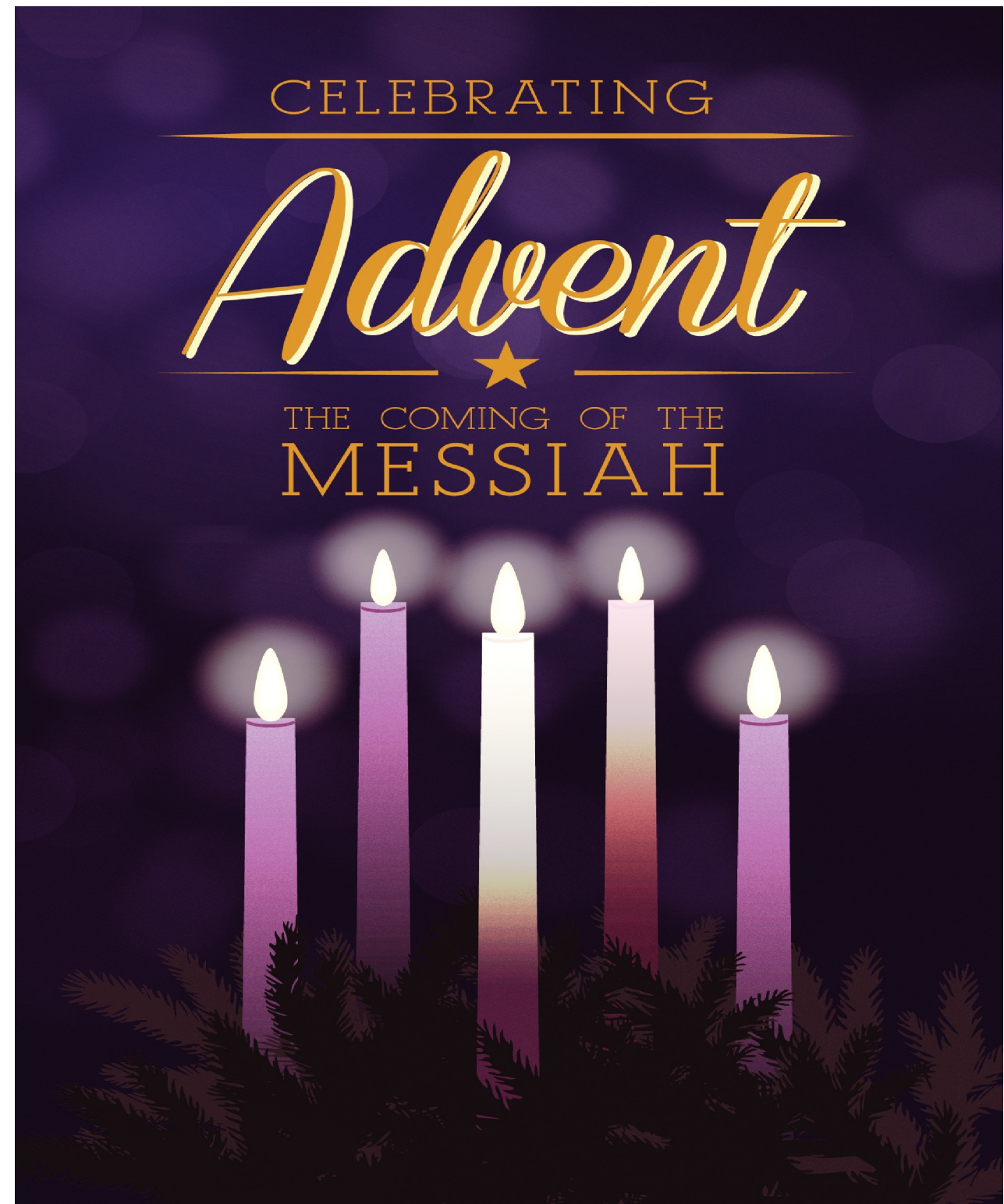
CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: We will be sending out an Advent Devotional each week via email. This devotional, “Those Who Dream” includes art, reflections and prompts for a season of dreaming about “the hopes and dreams of all the world” that is heralded by the birth of Christ. If you do not have access to email, please request a hard copy from the church office. We will be printing them only as requested, so please give Vickie some lead time for your request.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Wednesday December 2nd and ending December 23rd we will join together at 6:30 p.m. for a Bible Study in the Overbey Fellowship Hall. Using Adam Hamilton's guide, we will explore Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and the valuable lessons for our lives. If you are interested in joining for this study please contact Vickie in the Church Office. *We will operate under our Covid-19 safety guidelines: physical distancing, wearing a mask, asking folks that are symptomatic to not attend.*

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: We have experienced unprecedented loss this year. Family and friends have succumbed to death in this pandemic, millions have lost economic security through loss of jobs, some have lost businesses they built over a lifetime. Most of us have lost our beloved rhythms of life that felt familiar and gave our lives the richness of gatherings and adventure. And we can name losses related to hatred and violence. As we proclaim love, joy, peace, and love during Advent, we will come together on the Longest Night of the Year (Dec. 21 at 5:30 p.m.) to speak of our loss and to light luminaries which remind us of the light of Christ that shines even when all around us is pain and loss.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Each year we return to the story of Jesus’ birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we need to hear again and again. While the presentation may be adjusted to accommodate the restrictions of living in a pandemic, our time honored tradition of gathering will happen at 7:30 p.m. The evening will include singing Silent Night and lighting our candles, but we will be doing this segment of worship outside—a visible reminder that we are called to take our light out into the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—DANVILLE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Participants: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Broschart, Heather Perryman, Eddie Blount, Jay Hayes, Mike Reynolds, and David Parris

Call to Worship

Prelude *“Huron Carol”* arr. Marilyn Ham

Crossing the Threshold and Lighting of the Advent Candle Rafeal Garcia

Opening Prayer

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of peace on earth.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we aren’t sure that
goodwill among us can be found,
ignite the flame of peace within us,
**People: ... that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**
I believe in the light,
I believe in the light,
That has come ... that has come...
And is coming.

A Time for Reflection

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus. In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your peace more than now. We not only need Your peace and joy; Lord, we crave it. Your name is still called “Wonderful,” “Counselor,” “The Mighty God,” “The Everlasting Father,” and “The Prince of Peace.” We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.
~Edited from Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Hymn *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* v. 1 and 4

Children’s Time to Shine

Pastor Beth

Doxology

**Believe, with a hopeful heart!
Believe, and shine your light!
Believe, because the song we sing is sung for all!**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”
let the poor say, “I am rich
because of what our God has done for us.”
Believe!**

Prayers in the Stillness

O take me to that secret place
where lost in wonder and in awe,
the moment comes and I rejoice
to be and be with God.

Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Sung Coda: Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive,
to receive.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Anthem *“Creation Will Be at Peace”* by Anna Laura Page

Sermon *“Those Who Dream ... Keep The Peace”* John 1:1-18

Communion of the People

Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, thou Root of Jesse,
free thone own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. Refrain

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Chorus:
Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth;

3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent out salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.