

December 6, 2015 Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Prayer Catherine Hammond (I will send examples directly to her)

Welcome (Scott)

- General welcome
- Second Sunday of Advent
- “After a time of silent reflection, we will continue in worship.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Scott)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE (Instructions for Assisting Minister, which are new as of Sept. 27)

Sequence in worship: *The ushers will bring forward the Communion elements and the offering plates. The offering plates will have any prayer requests that worshipers have written. The Assisting Minister (AM) and pastor will receive these from the ushers and hold them while the pastor prays, thanking God for both the monetary gifts and the prayer requests.*

After the prayer, the AM and pastor will place the plates and Communion elements on the Communion Table/Altar and then the AM will introduce the Prayers of the People as he or she and the pastor stand behind the table.

Introduction/Instructions for the congregation: *Say something like the following in your own words to introduce the prayers:*

- We are invited into a time of prayer to express our thanks, to pray for concerns of ourselves and others for the church, for the world and for those in need.
- We are invited to include our joys and thanksgivings, our sorrows and burdens as we pray either silently or aloud.
- If you pray aloud, please conclude your petition with the phrase, “Lord, in your mercy, to which we will all respond, “Hear our prayer.”

Begin the time of prayer using these or similar words:

- Lord, hear us as we offer you our joys and thanksgivings and the concerns of our hearts. . . *or*
- Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, so we offer these petitions in his name. . .
or
- God our Creator, guide us by your Holy Spirit, that these prayers may serve your will and show your love for the world. . . *or*
- Mighty God, whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, hear our requests as we pray them silently or aloud. . .

Our petitions should include prayers for the Church universal and for TLPC; for community or local concerns; for peace and justice in the world and for those who govern; and for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Please be prepared to pray for one of these areas if you do not hear it offered aloud by a TLPC worshiper. You of course may include additional prayers of your own during the time of open prayer.

The pastor will conclude the time of prayer.

FIRST READING (Lector) -

The passage from Malachi is chosen as an example of the religious expectation that a messenger would urge the people to prepare for the messiah. Christians hear Malachi's messenger, like the voice of John the Baptist, speaking also to us, calling us to keep the covenant of our baptism and to purify our lives from sin.

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL READING** (Scott) - *By listing authorities in the Roman Empire and in Jerusalem's temple staff, and by setting John the Baptist next to Isaiah near the Jordan, Luke presents a detailed setting for Jesus' adult life and ministry. Christ stands within human history, fulfilling in unexpected ways the religious expectations of his people. Also today, the body of Christ lives in the real world and shows to "all flesh" God's salvation. We are to reorder the world and build a royal triumphal highway for the coming of the LORD, in the present and the future.*

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Dedication (Joanie—after offering)

(Pray also to acknowledge the written prayer slips)

Invitation to the Table and Communion: (Joanie)