



Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Welcome and Ministry Announcements

Dr. Yvan Kelly

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

***Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #115

“Away in a Manger”

***Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Get the road ready for the royal visit. Make a straight path for Christ to travel!

People: The winding roads must be made straight and the rough places smooth.

All humanity shall see God’s salvation.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Peace”

Paige Rhody and Kathy Foresi

Reader: On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ with all the faithful of every time and place: With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised salvation of the Lord, and look for the coming of the one who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth. With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry: “Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

We light this candle in hope. [*Light the first purple candle.*]

We light this candle for peace. [*Light the second purple candle.*]

People: The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer

Don Kent

Call to Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Prayer of Confession

Dr. Yvan Kelly

People: Holy God, we confess that we are sinners and cannot worship you unless we are purified and cleansed of our sins. Let your Spirit refine our character and not merely our appearance, so that we can be purged of our deepest faults and the evil that corrupts us. Help us to fill this house of God with purity of worship through the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

*please stand

Assurance of Pardon

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News! The one who started the good work in you

People: will bring it to completion in the day of Christ.

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Word

A Time for Children

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

Don Kent

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Luke 3:1-6

Dr. Yvan Kelly

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.'"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message

"Does It Matter?"

Dr. Yvan Kelly

*Middle Hymn

"Touch The Sky"

***Affirmation of Faith**

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 Ghost,
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 sitteth 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 Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers and Offering

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings

Offertory Song

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

People: Receive our offerings, O God, as money that enables the sowing of the seed of the Word in this place and to the ends of the earth. Use us as your hired hands in sowing and in harvesting, for the sake of Christ's church. Amen.

Sending

***Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #147

“The First Nowell”

Charge and Blessing

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Announcements

Men's Christmas Dinner December 11 - The annual Men's Christmas Dinner will be held at Mission BBQ, 8440 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32244, on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Brecht at 904.718.3128.

Bunko December 14 - The next Bunko night will be held this Saturday, December 14, at 6:00 p.m. No experience is needed and it is fun for all ages. The entrance fee is \$10.00 per person and includes dessert. All proceeds go to the church's building and grounds fund.

Congregational Meeting December 15 - There will be a congregational meeting after worship next Sunday, December 15. The purpose is to elect new Session members and present next year's budget.

Christmas Joy Offering December 22 - The Christmas Joy Offering supports church workers and their families in their time of need and develops future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. To contribute to this special offering, please use the Christmas Joy offering envelopes in the friendship pads.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24 - This year's Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m.

Church Office Closures - The church office will be closed on December 24, 25, and January 1.

Financial Giving - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Song credits: "Away in a Manger" - Public Domain; "Touch The Sky" - Dylan Thomas, Joel Houston, and Michael Guy Chislett © 2015 Hillsong MP Melodies; Hillsong Music Publishing Australia. Used by Permission. CCLI License #11509317; "The First Nowell" - Public Domain.



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