

## First Sunday of Advent Lectionary:

### Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the God's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob; that we may be taught God's ways and walk in God's paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of God from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of our God!

### Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup>"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only God. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

## Palisades Presbyterian Church

Palisades, New York 10964

December 2, 2007



*We are a Christian community  
welcoming all as we seek to grow in faith  
and serve others.*

### Reflection:

#### Memory Awakens Hope

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to [humans]. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope...."

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

## The Palisades Presbyterian Church

### *First Sunday of Advent*

December 2, 2007

**Welcome!** Worship at Palisades Church begins with meditation. The music, the quote on the cover, the quiet of this place is all meant to encourage and deepen your own inner work. Thank you for entering the spirit of this place, this hour, by honoring the silence.

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#### Prelude

#### Church Bell

#### Introit

#### Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

**People: Watch for this gift!**

Leader: Be vigilant and ready. For the gift is about to come.

**People: The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.**

Leader: Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

**People: Praise be to God for such lavish love.**

**All: Come, let us worship God together!**

**\*Hymn #1** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Communion of the People* All are welcome!

#### *Prayer after Communion:*

In Unison...

**O God, through this bread and this cup, you have made us one with you and with each other. May the unity we find at this table be a gift that we carry out into your suffering, divided world. Help us to find strength in knowing that you, the God of peace and justice, will always be with us. Amen.**

#### Offering our Gifts and Tithes

#### Offertory Music:

**\*Hymn #592** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

#### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

#### Offering our Joys and Concerns for Prayer

#### The Prayer of Jesus

**\*Hymn #464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

#### Charge and Benediction

#### Choral Response

#### Postlude

*\*All that are able please stand.*

Dying on the cross, Jesus saves us from death, having changed the oppressor's tool of execution into a symbol of promise and eternal life. Alive with us today, we rely on him and his guidance.

Remembering all this and more, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate Jesus: his dying, rising, and his eternal presence among us.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you, broken in some ways as this bread will be, working in a fractured and hungry world, knowing that we are made whole in service to you. Great is the mystery of faith:

**People:**

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Leader:**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and fruit of the vine, that this meal may be for us a communion in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Make us one together with him and all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us in hope, and inspire us in steadfast love, so that we may serve as your faithful disciples all the days of our lives. We ask these things humbly, in the name of the one we serve.

**People: Amen**

***Blessing of the Bread & Cup:***

On the night of his arrest, Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, he took the cup, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, shed for you and for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the saving death of the risen Jesus, with us today.

### **Prayer of Confession (In Unison)**

God of Amazing Surprises,  
your love is our foundation,  
the base from which we wait expectantly.  
All our watchfulness is incomplete, however,  
without your love  
and your healing power.  
Forgive us when we are stubborn in our ways,  
focusing on selfish concerns.  
Heal us, please. Strengthen us,  
and make us watchful through our faith in you.  
We ask this in Jesus' name,  
Amen.

### **Silent Confession**

### **Choral Response**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**\*Hymn #322** Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

### **Offering to One Another of a Sign of Peace**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle for Hope**

Jane Hunt

**\* Hymn 9: *O Come, O Come Immanuel* (Verse 1)**

O come, O come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Prayer for Illumination

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**          Isaiah 2:1-5

**Anthem**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**          Matthew 24:36-44

**Sermon**                *Hole in the Doughnut*

**A Moment for Meditation**

**\*Hymn #18**            *The Desert Shall Rejoice*



**Celebration of Communion**  
All Are Welcome at this table!

**Communion** The Invitation to Jesus' Table

**Leader:** Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

**People:** **They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God.**

**Leader:** According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at the table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

**People:** **Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.**

**Leader:** This is that same table.

**People:** **All are invited to share this feast, which God has prepared.**

## *Great Thanksgiving:*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Leader:**

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise to the One who is with us always.

We recall that through the words of the prophets, the Spirit of God promised us a Redeemer, giving us hope for the day when justice would roll down like waters in a mighty stream. We rejoice now, for in Jesus Christ that day of rushing winds and waters is upon us and carrying us onward.

In thanksgiving and anticipation we praise you, and we join our voices with the choirs of angels, the prophets, the apostles, and the saints. We gather here in this sanctuary with the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name in the great mystery of your presence.

**People Sing Hosanna!**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

**Leader:**

You are holy, O God of Majesty, and blessed is Jesus the Christ. Born of Mary, Jesus *lives* with us. Eating with those who have found distance from God, he welcomes us all back into God's presence. As we guide children with his teachings, he teaches us, again. Visiting the sick as he did, he heals us in ways beyond the physical limitations of these bodies of ours.