



BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent/Peace
YouTube Service via Zoom
Pastor Margaret Keyser, preaching

REFLECTION

“Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.” ~ Psalm 85:8

PRELUDE *Of the Father's Love Begotten*-arr. by W. Held Deborah Page
GREETING & OPENING PRAYER Pastor Margaret Keyser
CALL TO WORSHIP Jim VanWert

Leader: This is the Day that the Lord has Made

People: We will Rejoice and be Glad in It.

Leader: May God's love and grace shine upon us this morning.

People: Oh Lord give us Your understanding, so we will keep Your commandments

All: Direct us in the path of righteousness and Turn our Hearts to You Always. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN (brown #66) *To God Be the Glory*

1. To God be the glory great things He hath done!

So loved he the world that He gave us His Son,

Who yielded the life atonement of sin and opened the Life-gate that all may in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord Let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the People rejoice!

O Come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things.

He hath done!

2. Great things he hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;

But purer and higher and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain:

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

- The Jesse Tree (Rachel - Genesis 29:15-20)
- Children's Message

Deborah Page
Pastor Margaret Keyser

Song with Our Children (brown #580)

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world,

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight-

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

ADVENT READING & CANDLE LIGHTING ~ Kate Lathrop

Reader: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.

~Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace~

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8

Jim VanWert

ANTHEM *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King* - by Rpbert Lau Barre Congregational Virtual Choir

SERMON "The One Who is More Powerful Than Me" Pastor Margaret Keyser

* HYMN (brown #136)

The First Noel

1. *The First Noel, the angel did say, was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, On a cold winters night that was do deep.*

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

2. *This star drew night to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.*

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Margaret Keyser

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN (brown) #322

In Remembrance

*In remembrance of Me eat this bread.
In remembrance of Me, drink this wine.
In remembrance of Me pray for the time when God's own will is done.

In remembrance of Me heal the sick.
In remembrance of Me feed the poor.
I remembrance of Me open the door and let your brother done.

Let him in. Take, eat and be comforted; drink and remember too,
That this is My body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you
In remembrance of Me search for truth.
In remembrance of Me always love.
In remembrance of Me, don't look above, but in your heart look for God.
Do this in remembrance of Me.*

INVITATION

Pastor Margaret Keyser

This is the Lord's Table and Christ invites you to share this meal of grace. Christ recognizes you and looks upon you with favor. Christ befriends you and wants you within his circle. Count yourself among Christ's disciples by partaking in this feast of fellowship.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim Van Wert

God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that:

**Our love isn't always genuine
we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it
we forget to consider more ways to serve you
we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality
we do not pray enough for our enemies
we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other"
we relish in fantasies of revenge.**

**For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God,
we seek your forgiveness.**

Have mercy on us and hear our prayers...

All: Thanks be to God.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Margaret Keyser

One: God's mercy extends beyond the bounds of even our collective imagination.
God's love seeps through any wall we could ever put up.
God's goodness holds more power than the sum of all sin.
It is because of that extensive, seeping, powerful and bold love
I declare to you in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity:
That God forgives us all our sins.

All: Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread;
And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
He comes.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jim Van Wert

**Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal.
We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your
presence.**

Thank you for loving us so tenderly.

Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (brown #138)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

***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.***

Refrain:

- 2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.***

Refrain:

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Margaret Keyser

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

***Go now in peace, never be afraid
Knowing God will be with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, showing you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, faith and love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.***

POSTLUDE

Hark, the Glad Sound-setting by P. Manz

Deborah Page

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS

Jim Van Wert

You may donate or pay your pledge by visiting www.barrechurch.com or mail to:
Margaret Marshall, 169 Sunrise Ave, Barre, MA 01005

Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends, Mark Bernard, Carol Brandl, Lois Cooley, Bess Difley, Abby Hale, Wilhelmina Piper, Max Snyder, Mark Bernard, Neil Churchill, Debbie Robichaud, Richard and Irene Stevens, those affected by Covid 19, and those who work for our community.

Please let us know if you have any prayer concerns or celebrations you would like to share with the congregation. Call the church, 978-355-4041 and leave a message or call Wendy, 978-928-5180.