

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Liberty Pole – Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M. - S6759 Hwy. 27 - 608-675-3630
Viroqua – Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M. – 221 S. Center Ave. – 608-637-3551

December 6, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE *a time to prepare for worship through prayer and meditation*

WELCOMING WORDS *(please sign the attendance sheet)*

CALL TO WORSHIP (read responsively) *Psalm 89:1-4*

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, for ever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

Your steadfast love is established forever, your faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:

**'I will establish your descendants for ever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"**

OPENING PRAYER (read in unison) "Second Sunday of Advent"

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance
and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet
with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(from The Book of Common Prayer)

ADVENT CAROL "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal No. 211

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison) the Nicene Creed Hymnal No. 880

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison) Hymnal No. 895

CHORAL PRAYER RESPONSE - VIR.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES LP: the Andy & Renae Diehl family
Vir: Pat Matz & Gloria Freilinger

CHRISTMAS CAROL "Away in a Manger" Hymnal No. 217

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Malachi 2:17 –3:5*

17 You have wearied the LORD with your words.

"How have we wearied him?" you ask.

By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the LORD, and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?"

1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, 4 and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.

5 "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty.

SPECIAL MUSIC – L.P.

CHOIR ANTHEM – Vir. "A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us" Price/Besig

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 1:56-76*

6 Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

57 When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

58 Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John."

61 They said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

62 Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. 63 He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he

wrote, "His name is John." 64 Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. 65 The neighbors

were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. 66 Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,

because he has come and has redeemed his people.

69 He has raised up a horn[a] of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David

70(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
 71salvation from our enemies
 and from the hand of all who hate us—
 72to show mercy to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant,
 73the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
 74to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
 and to enable us to serve him without fear
 75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
 76And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
 for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

ADVENT CAROL "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Hymnal No. 216

SERMON "Signs of His Coming" Pastor Ethan

**OFFERING
 DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
 praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
 Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION (see insert)

CHRISTMAS CAROL "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" Hymnal No. 218

**BENEDICTION
 THREEFOLD AMEN (unison)** Hymnal No. 898
POSTLUDE

	LIBERTY POLE	VIROQUA
USHERS	Arden & Lynn Zitzner	Chuck & Kathie Stelzner
GREETERS		Annabel McGarry
ACOLYTES	volunteer	Ben Hanson
NURSERY ATTENDANT		Melissa Weilnau
LITURGIST	Cyndy Hubbard	Layne Hanson
Last Sunday's attendance	53	81
Last Sunday's offering	\$671	\$3956.50

Pastor Ethan Larson

Organists: Joyce Funk (LP), Kathy Hanson & Barb Casper (Viroqua)

Choir Director (Viroqua): Lynn Whitney

Church Office Phone: 608-637-3551

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pastor@viroquaumc.org

WVRQ RADIO BROADCAST - sponsored by Janet Schipper in memory of her son Joe, whose birthday was December 4.

LIBERTY POLE BULLETINS - sponsored by Chuck Metz and family in honor of Priscilla's birthday, which was November 22.

VIROQUA BULLETINS - given in memory of Forest and Irene O'Connor.

WREATHS ON LP CHURCH DOORS - in memory of Orvis Hornby and Lloyd Zitzner by their families.

CALENDAR

Today 7:30 P.M., - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, "Caroling of the Choirs"

All through Advent this year the Viroqua Church will feature a display of Nativity sets in the narthex. The worship committee invites you to bring your Nativity sets from home to add to the display. (Put your name on the bottom of your Nativity set.)

COMMUNION

Pastor: The altar set before us is God's altar - it is God's table. God invites to share in this meal every person who earnestly repents of their sin, seeks to live a holy and righteous life, and desires to live at peace with all people. Now let us confess our sins to God and each other.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have failed to hear the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: You are forgiven.

People: You are forgiven.

Pastor: Almighty God, You gave us Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer and to die upon the cross for us and for our salvation as the one perfect sacrifice. Consecrate these elements of bread and wine, the symbols He gave us for His body and blood, which were broken and shed for us, that they may be for us His true food, bringing to us wholeness and holiness and making us partakers of the divine nature through Him.

On the night He was betrayed, He took the bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat, for this is my body, broken for you; do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after the meal, He took the cup, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and drink all of this, for it is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins; do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me." Amen.

(sharing the elements)

All: O Lord, our heavenly Father, we Your humble servants desire Your fatherly goodness to mercifully accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; we most humbly ask You to grant that by the merits and death of Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and Your whole church may obtain forgiveness of our sins and all of the other benefits of His passion.

Here we offer and present to You, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice to You, humbly asking You that we who are partakers of this holy communion may be filled with Your grace and heavenly benediction. And although we are unworthy, because of our many sins, to offer to You any sacrifice, yet we beg You to accept this our necessary duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be given to You, heavenly Father almighty, world without end, Amen.