

**John Calvin Presbyterian Church | Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

**Lectionary Readings:** Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37

**Welcome and Community Sharing**

**Opening Sentences**

Liturgist

One: Jesus says: I am coming soon.  
Many: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Liturgy of the Advent Wreath**

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.  
As the Lord has promised, in days to come –  
The nations 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 anymore.  
All: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Liturgist

Faithful God,  
your promises stand unshaken through all generations.  
Renew us in hope,  
that we may be awake and alert  
as we watchful for the glorious return of Jesus Christ,  
our judge and Savior,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

#123: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

**Call to Confession**

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.**

*Silence for personal confession*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

Since God has forgiven us in Christ,  
let us forgive one another.  
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Choir Anthem**

JCPC Adult Choir

“Children Go Where I Send Thee”

**Prayer for Illumination**

Liturgist

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away; your Word stands forever. May we stay attentive and receptive, that we hear and do what you command.  
Amen.

**Scripture Reading**

Liturgist

Isaiah 64:1-9 (NIV)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and  
come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before  
you!  
<sup>2</sup> As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to  
your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
<sup>3</sup> For when you did awesome things that we  
did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains  
trembled before you.  
<sup>4</sup> Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for  
him.  
<sup>5</sup> You come to the help of those who gladly  
do right,  
who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.  
How then can we be saved?  
<sup>6</sup> All of us have become like one who is  
unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy  
rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
<sup>7</sup> No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to<sup>[b]</sup> our sins.  
<sup>8</sup> Yet you, LORD, are our Father.  
We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
<sup>9</sup> Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;  
do not remember our sins forever.  
Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

**Gospel Reading**  
Mark 13:24-37 (NIV)

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
<sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>26</sup> “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

<sup>28</sup> “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it<sup>[b]</sup> is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

**The Day and Hour Unknown**

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert<sup>[c]</sup>! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

<sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

**Sermon**

“Come to Save Us!”

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

**Hymn**

#124: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Call for the Offering and 2024 Pledge Offerings**

Rev. Carol DeV Vaughan

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**Faithful God, we thank you that Christ is being revealed in every time and place until he comes again in the fulness of glory. Strengthen our testimony and spiritual gifts; increase our generosity, as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Dedication of 2024 Pledge Offerings**

Rev. Carol DeVaughan

**Song of Preparation**

“One Bread, One Body”

JCPC Praise Team

**Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper**

Words of Invitation  
Communion Prayer and Lord’s Prayer  
Words of Institution  
Communion of the People  
Prayer

Rev. Carol DeVaughan

**Hymn**

#108: “Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

**Blessing**

Rev. Carol DeVaughan

**Charge**

Rev. Carol DeVaughan

**Blessing for the Luncheon Meal**

Rev. Carol DeVaughan

**The bulletin looks different this week!**

*We apologize for the inconvenience- the office printer has given out and we are in the process of replacing it. In the meantime, we are using a shared printer, and will need to limit the amount printed. Thank you for your patience as we make this update!*

*For more information on church life at JCPC, please visit [JCPCChurch.org](http://JCPCChurch.org) or check out our weekly newsletter. Updates can also be found on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.*

*Not signed up for the weekly newsletter? Feel free to contact us at [office@jcpchurch.org](mailto:office@jcpchurch.org).*

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