



REDEEMER PRES

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12.20.2020

Explanation of Art

By Bethany Sanders

The first panel is for 1 Peter 4:12-13, where Peter talks about fiery ordeals.

The second panel is for 1 Peter 5:1-4 where Peter addresses the elders and exhorts them to be shepherds of God's flock. I was thinking about how in 1 Peter 5 the shepherds are also the sheep. So I have a sheeple shepherd doing a fire-man carry of a sheeple from his flock. The background is a cracked desert because the shepherd is carrying the other sheep to safety.

The third panel is for 1 Peter 5:8-9, where Peter tells Christians to resist the devil who "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." I wondered how sheep could resist a lion. Peter uses the term "resist" instead of "defeat," so I drew the sheep with staffs—defensive rather than offensive weapons—and had them face the prowling lion together.

Welcome

Call to Worship

From Isaiah 40:3-5

- Leader* Hear now the voice of one calling:
“In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
- Kids* **Jesus, make us ready for you.**
- All* **Make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.**
- Kids* **Jesus, don’t let anything stop you.**
- Leader* Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.
- All* **And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.**
- Kids* **Jesus, we want to see you.**
- Leader* It will be done,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Opening Hymn

“Savior of the Nations Come”

All

**Savior of the nations, come,
Show yourself, the virgin’s Son.
Marvel, heaven, wonder, earth,
That our God chose such a birth.**

**Not by human power or seed
Did the woman’s womb conceive;
Only by the Spirit’s breath
Was the Word of God made flesh.**

**Christ laid down his majesty,
Passed through dark Gethsemane.
Though he left his Father’s home,
Christ now sits on God’s own throne.**

**Christ in glory intercede
For your creature’s suffering need.
Let your resurrecting power
Soon complete the victory hour.**

**Praise to you, O Lord, we sing.
Praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one,
Let your lasting kingdom come.**

*words Ambrose, 4th., and Martin Luther, 1523; tr. Calvin Seerveld, 1984
music Enchiridia, Erfurt, 1524; arr. Bruce Benedict, 2009 Cardiphonia Music*

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Drawn from 1 Peter 1-2

Leader Apart from you, Lord, our way of life seems full and right,
but really, it's only empty, cut off from true light and life.

All **We're like sheep going astray,
who don't even know they don't know their own way.**

Leader Lord, we are tired. We are not confessing it, because it is not a sin,
but we are naming it and lamenting it.

All **We are worn down by the pandemic, division, mistrust,
sickness and death, constant change, and endless decisions.**

Leader In your fatigue, do not sin.

All **We do confess that we are self-absorbed,
that our world shrinks to only ourselves, our interests, our people.
We distract ourselves and medicate with food, alcohol, shows, and browsing.
We are asleep to what God might do in us and through us.**

Leader How is your heart toward your Father?

All **Impatient for him to act,
Suspicious that he doesn't care,
Worried that he will let us down,
Distrustful that he will come down to save.**

Leader Unless you call us, God, we remain in darkness.

All **Restore us to yourself, Shepherd and Guardian of our souls.**

Assurance of Pardon in the Gospel

Drawn from 1 Peter 1-3

Leader

Jesus is special and dear to God.
The Father chose him before the creation of the world
to be the cornerstone of the new world.

All

**Christ was revealed when he suffered for us,
bearing our sins in his body on the cross, to bring us to God.**

Leader

Put to death in the body, he was made alive in the Spirit.

All

**He ascended into heaven where he reigns at his Father's right hand,
over every power, authority, ideology, structure, and sphere.**

Leader

You are special and dear to God.
God has chosen and redeemed you to make you his special possession
that you would trust him and follow in Jesus' steps.

All

**Let us walk, then, in both joy and hardship,
until Jesus is revealed in glory.**

Leader

Once you were not a people,

All

but now we are God's people!

Leader

Once you had not received mercy,

All

but now we have received mercy!

Song in the Gospel

"Sing We Now of Christmas"

All

**Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing, we here!
Listen to our praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we, Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing, we all, Noel!**

**Shepherds on the hillside heard the angels sing:
Glory, honor, praises to the infant King.
Sing we, Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing, we all, Noel!**

**In the town, they found him; Son of Mary mild.
Sleeping in a manger was the Holy Child.
Sing we, Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing, we all, Noel!**

**Wise men sought and found him, treasures did they bring;
Bowing down, they worshiped Christ, the King of kings.
Sing we, Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing, we all, Noel!**

**Sing we, Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing, we all, Noel!**

trad. French Carol

Song in the Gospel

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

All

**Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Raising up the banner high,
All the heav’ns proclaimed him nigh,
He was promised, he has come,
Let us sing to God’s own Son.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

words traditional French carol; tr. James Chadwick, 1862; music Gloria; Public Domain

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Prayer for Peace

From Ephesians 2:14

Leader Jesus himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one
and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

Prince of Peace,
the world we live in feels so hostile.

All **We don't just disagree, we hate.
We don't just have a difference of opinion, we malign.**

Leader We debate every topic under the sun.
We divide evenly into two opposing groups rather than finding common ground.

All **Our words are harsh to the stranger online.
Our words are harsh to the loved one at our dinner table.**

Leader For what we have said and what we have done.
For what we have left unsaid and what we have left undone.

Forgive us, Lord.

All **When angels announced your birth, they gave glory to God
and extended peace to those on whom your favor rests.**

Leader When fuses are short,
when our world is filled with injustice, violence, and unrest,

All **You offer us this peace that transcends all human understanding.**

Light the "peace" or fourth Advent candle along with the first three.

All **We light this fourth candle as a reminder that you, yourself are our peace.
You can destroy barriers that exist between even the most polarized of groups
and make us one.**

Leader Make us instruments of your peace.
Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

All **Amen.**

written by Emily Pilkington

Offering of Gifts and Service

Online giving available at [redeemindy.org/give]



Scripture

1 Peter 5:8-11

Reader

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Charles Anderson

Hold on to that Towel

Community Group Questions

- 1) Where do you feel the hard places, even perhaps besieged, right now? Scripture says we have three enemies that are typically inter-twined: the world, the flesh, and the devil (see Ephesians 2:1-3). First Peter 5:8 makes sure we do not overlook our spiritual enemy. How can you see the world, the flesh, and the devil at work in your hard places?
- 2) Identify the commands in 1 Peter 5:8-9. What could those look like for you right now? What do you find comforting about these commands? What do you find challenging?
- 3) The commands of 5:8-9 are matched and undergirded by the grace of 5:10-11. Where do you see signs of God's redemptive grace in these verses? How might those comfort and challenge you in not throwing in the towel?

Children's Questions

It's been a long nine months. You're probably tired and in need of a break from school and everything feeling so abnormal. What does 1 Peter 5:10-11 tell you about how God loves you? How can those truths help you keep doing the next right thing in your relationship with God? With your parents? Your siblings? Your teachers? Your friends?

Song of Response

“Break Forth O Light”

All

Soon at last at the dawning, we become who we are.
The redemption of Jesus through the blood of forgiveness we’ve spread near and far.
Yet we’ve never stopped seeking, for the kingdom complete.
For the hurt to be whole, for the poor to be full and the scared to be free.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.
The soul that yearned is satisfied.
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

We have walked as we worshipped, in our hearts, Sabbath rest
Representing our Sovereign, who can move earth and heaven in His power to bless.
We have lived out His beauties, shown the light of his face.
Silenced every accuser, broke the chains of each burden, clothed the shameful in grace.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.
The soul that yearned is satisfied.
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

Now the hour is brimming, fullness almost has come.
When the earth stands receiving, its King and his Kingdom, and Heaven comes down.
And we fully know him, by touch and by sight.
And we’ll drink deep together, surrounded by splendor, increasing in life.

Break forth O Light, O Healing rise
The earth that groaned, now leaps and cries.
The soul that yearned is satisfied.
We hold out our flame, and in hope we wait,
Until you arrive, until you arrive, until you arrive.

Nathan Partain, 2016

Community Life

Christmas Eve in the Parks
please RVSP @ redeemindy.org/events

Valediction

From 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

- Leader* Listen, I tell you a mystery:
we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—
- Kids* **Jesus, make us ready for you.**
- All* **In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable,
and we will be changed.**
- Leader* For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable,
and the mortal with immortality.
- Kids* **Jesus, don't let anything stop you.**
- Leader* When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable,
and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:
- All* **“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”**
- Leader* “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
- All* **Thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- Leader* Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord
- All* **Because we know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**
- Kids* **Jesus, we want to see you.**
- All* **Come Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

All

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!**

**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping, vigil till the morning new.
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ, the Babe, was born for you! Christ, the Babe, was born for you!**

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!**

**Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all! Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all!**

Polish Carol, adt by Edith Reed, ca. 1925; tr. Polish Melody

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2020 budget:

\$ 2,256,301

year to date giving:

\$ 2,027,001.67 ▼

Congregational Giving

Dec 13th	\$	\$80,724.06
Dec Total	\$	\$128,785.60
Dec Budget	\$	\$188,025.08
