

\*RESPONSE

"Doxology"

# 621

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**How good you have been to us, gracious God! How meagerly we have responded. You have restored our fortunes when we felt all was lost. You have filled our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy. We give thanks, not only with a portion of our income, but also through renewed commitment to righteous living. By your grace, we share in the work Christ came to accomplish among us. May love abound in and through us. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

#82 (vs. 1,2)

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

CONSECRATION of the ELEMENTS

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

\*CLOSINGHYMN

# 116 (vs. 1,2,6)

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

\*BENEDICTION

Mary Hurley, *Pastor*  
Katie Maurer, *Director of Music Ministry*  
Jenny Hammer, *Office Manager*  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2227 West Michigan Street, Evansville, IN 47712

**"Make Sure You Clean  
Behind Your Ears"**



**Second Sunday in Advent**  
**December 5, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

WELCOME Pastor Mary

PRELUDE Katie Maurer

RINGING OF THE BELLS

\*OPENING HYMN # 77 (vs 1,5,6)  
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor Mary  
Leader: Listen! Listen for a messenger from God. The way is being prepared for Christ's coming.  
**People: We are here to listen for a word from God. We have gathered to prepare for Christ's advent.**  
Leader: Come with your joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. There is a place for you in the company of seekers.  
**People: We thank God for our acceptance in the church. We rejoice to offer the love of Christ to others.**  
Leader: We are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Claim anew today this opportunity and responsibility.  
**People: We are glad God is doing great things among us. We want to rejoin ourselves to God's work in the world.**

\*INVOCATION (in unison)  
**How good it is to gather where garments of sorrow and affliction are removed. Here we are wrapped in the beauty of God's glory and welcomed to life at its fullest. Surely you restore us to our best, mighty God, and equip us for productive living. Make a difference within and among us today so we can work for a better tomorrow. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE– Gloria Patri # 614

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

MORNING PRAYER OF CONFESSION Pastor Mary

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come before the refiner's fire, that all falseness and impurities may be burned away. Beneath all the pretense and brokenness of our lives, God helps us to discover pure silver and gold. We are highly valued by our Maker. Let us be fully open to God's forgiving spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. WE have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Good news! God has done great things for us. We are loved; we are forgiven; we are claimed by God's grace. The Holy One has begun a good work in us. Even now, the love of God is expanding our knowledge, sharpening our discernment, and equipping us for excellence. Go and bear fruit.

CONTEMPORARY SONG "Prepare the Way"

SCRIPTURE Malachi 3: 1-4 Pastor Mary  
Philippians 1: 3-11 (NRSV)

SERMON Pastor Mary  
"Make Sure You Clean Behind Your Ears!"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING Pastor Mary  
What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God? When we sense the wonder of God's majesty and realize the amazing extent of God's concern for us, we can only respond with all that we have and all we are. What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude.

OFFERTORY "Refiner's Fire" Katie Maurer  
(Doerksen/Arr. Tornquist)