



CHRISTMAS EVE 2023



First reading

Psalm 96

¹O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

³Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

⁶**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

⁹Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²**let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

¹³before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

Advent Wreath

Lighting the Christ Candle

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Now we experience the fulfillment of our anticipation, our waiting. Just as Jesus has entered the world, we welcome him to enter our lives.

We have lit the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Now we light the Christ candle, the candle of fulfillment.

All: Dear God, we confess that often the tinsel and glitter of Christmas occupy more of our thoughts and time than the Christ child. We pray that this time of fulfillment will transform our lives, and so fulfilled, that we will serve you the whole year through. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

December 24, 2023 North Chevy Chase Christian Church, Chevy Chase, MD; Palestine

December 17, 2023 – Andrew shared that Sharon is recovering from her mini stroke last month - waiting for an artery surgery till it's 80% blocked – March. Talking to his son again. Beth asked for prayers for Natalie Moaadel (Dorian's Mom) who is trying to stop smoking. Blair's asked for prayers for all those who are sick this time of year – a lot is going around. Prayers for those with addiction. Miranda asked for prayers for the family of deceased Dr. Kanaiyalal Shah. Gabrielle asked for prayers for all travelers, being with family & anyone suffering from self-doubt that they are able to really enjoy these holidays. Pastor Monica & Gail enjoyed the (Maryland version) Nutcracker last weekend in which Gabrielle was dancing her heart out & loving every minute - also Pastor Monica's dental work is progressing nicely. The surprise that Pastor Monica's daughter - visiting for Christmas - AND Gabrielle's sister visiting as well – went to same college. Barb Lang asked for prayers for her Granddaughter & husband returning Stateside from their honeymoon in South Africa. Debbie Flook asked for prayers for Jean Rice recuperating from surgery. Also for continued prayers for Heather - the pain in leg/back & getting ready for another surgery