

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 6, 2020

The congregation's part is in **bold**.

### THE WORD OF GOD

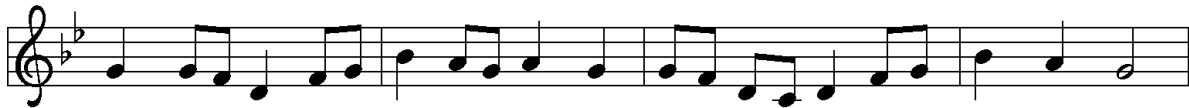
#### WELCOME

#### GATHERING SONG

#### Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming  
strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

### The First Lesson

#### Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Lesson

### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **Mark 1:1-8**  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world.

Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for peace in the Middle East. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered. Please type your petitions in the chat.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work especially Nicholas of Myra. Make their generous lives an example for all.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## MUSICAL OFFERING TO GOD

### ADORE

You stepped down from heaven  
Humbly You came  
God of all creation here with us  
In a starlit manger Emmanuel  
Light of the world here to save

*Adore, Come let us adore  
O come let us adore Him  
The Lord, Worship Christ the Lord  
Let all that is within us adore*

Wise men bring their treasures,  
Shepherds bow low  
Angel voices sing of peace on earth  
What have I to offer to heaven's King  
I will bring my life my love my all

Angels sing, praises ring, to the newborn King  
Peace on earth here with us  
Joy awakening at Your feet we fall

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray as our Savior, Christ has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

Friends in Christ, we wait and watch during this Advent season as we again are distanced from each other in love. We wait to be reunited together as one congregation to worship in person and at the same time Christ holds us together in spirit as recognize the holiness in the gathering of our hearts. And as we wait we seek God's direction for being the church in this broken world.

Since we cannot partake in the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus due to circumstances beyond all our control, let us in unison pray the prayer of Spiritual Communion and invite the communion of the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

**O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. we remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we implore you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **BLESSING**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

## I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,



Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,



sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Acolyte Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
People **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## WORSHIP MINISTERS FOR TODAY

Clergy: Pastor Peggy Rose  
Acolyte: Leonard Novak  
Reader: Susan L.  
Prayers: Judy I.  
Voice of the People: Jim & Louise Bugg  
Lay Leader: Denise Hobbs  
Musicians: Denise Hobbs and Carol Latimer  
Technology: Carol Latimer