

Sunday Worship - December 6, 2020 - Second Sunday of Advent

(Announcements)

Opening Hymn: “On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry” (CP 103)

1. **On Jordan’s bank, the Baptist’s cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.**

5. **All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Opening

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God,
and blessed be God’s reign of justice and peace for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Trisagion

Holy God,
**holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.

The light grows gradually brighter as we move through Advent together. Today is the Sunday of Peace.

Family: The candle of Hope burns bright (*light the first candle*).

Today, we light the candle of Peace (*light the second candle*).

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope Jesus gives us and for the peace he bestows.

Our peace is found in Christ.

Let us pray - O God of Peace, send your light into our hearts. Help us prepare ourselves for the peace that you bring - the inner peace in our hearts and the outer peace in the world. **Amen.**

Children’s Focus: Jesse Tree

In these days of Advent we wait for the birth of Jesus the Christ – the fulfillment of all the promises God made. Let us pray.

Welcome Jesus, king of our hearts, king of the universe. Overwhelm us today with your coming and your presence, that we may never be the same. Live in us, Prince of Peace. Amen.

Song: "Hope Is the Star" (VU 7)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

The Collect

God of timeless grace,
**you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with
uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of Christ, who reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

The First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 (*Merle McKee*)

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Mary Koehler*)

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.
I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying,
for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you
Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before you,
and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.
Glory to God,
**Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a (*George Ing*)

Gradual Hymn: “Joy Shall Come” (CP 104)

**Joy shall come even to the wilderness, and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom, deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water, in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water, in the desert streams shall flow. (Repeat)**

The Holy Gospel (Brigitte Solomon)

May God be with you.

And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon: The Rev. Roberta Fraser

~ A minute of silence for reflection & prayer ~

Prayers of the People (Kathy Duncan)

The Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting us to share the abundance of divine love. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

(short silence for reflection)

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

(Please un-mute your own mic to share in greeting one another with a blessing of peace)

The Offering

With grateful hearts, let us give what we have. With joyful hope, let us give for what can be.

*~A moment of silence to reflect on your gratitude for what you have received
or to make your weekly pledge online.~*

Offertory Hymn: “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” (CP 106)

- 1. There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!**
- 3. But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you’ll lead them, and give to the weary rest.**

Blessing Over the Gifts

God of abundance,
we offer you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience
and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us sing,
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who
sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: “Come, Thous Long-expected Jesus” (CP 88)

- 1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**
- 3. Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever: now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4. By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The Dismissal (*Brigitte Solomon*)

Take your encouragement from Christ, that your joy may be complete.
We will share in the Spirit; We will find consolation in love.

Practice a ministry of humility and compassion For God is at work in you, empowering you
We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will live our lives in hope and in peace.