

## Advent 2: December 6, 2020

### Gathering

Prelude: "All Earth Is Hopeful"

Opening Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

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| 1 | Come, thou long-expected Jesus,<br>born to set thy people free;<br>from our fears and sins release us;<br>let us find our rest in thee.<br>Israel's strength and consolation,<br>hope of all the earth thou art,<br>dear desire of ev'ry nation,<br>joy of ev'ry longing heart. | 2 | Born thy people to deliver,<br>born a child, and yet a king;<br>born to reign in us forever,<br>now thy gracious kingdom bring.<br>By thine own eternal Spirit<br>rule in all our hearts alone;<br>by thine all-sufficient merit<br>raise us to thy glorious throne. |
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### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: **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.**

P: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. God forgives you and blots out all your sins on account of Jesus Christ. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✝ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**

## The Word

### Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Word became flesh and dwelled among us. Bless Nelson, who will now read to us the Scriptures, that your Word may dwell in our hearts and wake us to your coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

<sup>9</sup> 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!”

<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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, <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: "Light an Advent Candle"

Becki Stagle Mayo

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

**C: Bless us as we light the second candle of this wreath.**

P: Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness, welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation.

**C: Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Sermon

### Sermon

*Silence for reflection and meditation*

### Hymn of the Day: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

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|--|--|
| 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people;<br>tell of peace!" So says our God.<br>Comfort those who sit in darkness<br>mourning under sorrow's load.<br>To God's people now proclaim<br>that God's pardon waits for them!<br>Tell them that their war is over;<br>God will reign in peace forever. | 2 For the herald's voice is crying<br>in the desert far and near,<br>calling us to true repentance,<br>since the kingdom now is here.<br>Oh, that warning cry obey!<br>Now prepare for God a way!<br>Let the valleys rise to meet him,<br>and the hills bow down to greet him! |
| 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked,<br>and the rougher places plain!<br>Let your hearts be true and humble,<br>as befits his holy reign!<br>For the glory of the Lord<br>now on earth is shed abroad,<br>and all flesh shall see the token<br>that God's word is never broken.      |  |

## The 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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

## The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Offering Prayer

*Please stand as you are able.*

A: God of abundance, we bring before 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, Emmanuel, God with us.

**C: Amen.**

## The Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## The Lord's Prayer

**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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Here is your God! He has come to feed his flock like a shepherd and carry you at his bosom.

The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*All eat bread and drink wine or juice at their seat.*

## Communion Song: "Come, O Precious Ransom"

- 1 Come, O precious Ransom, come,  
only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world;  
open are to you all portals.  
Come, your beauty let us view;  
anxiously we wait for you.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and never leave,  
though I am but poor and lowly.  
What vast riches will be mine  
when you are my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms  
graciously receive, I pray you;  
evermore, as best I can,  
homage I will gladly pay you,  
and in faith I will embrace  
life eternal by your grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna! David's Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown  
bring us blessing and salvation;  
that forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our king!

## Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of the day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn: "Fling Wide the Door"

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;<br/>the King of glory comes in state;<br/>the Lord of lords and King of kings,<br/>the Savior of the world who brings<br/>his great salvation to the earth.<br/>So raise a shout of holy mirth<br/>and praise our God and Lord,<br/>Creator, Spirit, Word.</p> | <p>3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands<br/>that live by their true king's commands.<br/>And blessed be the hearts he rules,<br/>the humble places where he dwells.<br/>He is the rightful Son of bliss<br/>who fills our lives and makes us his,<br/>creator of the world,<br/>our only strength for good.</p> |
| <p>2 He is the rock of our belief,<br/>the heart of mercy's gentle self.<br/>His kingly crown is holiness;<br/>his scepter is his loveliness;<br/>he brings our sorrows to an end.<br/>Now gladly praise our king and friend,<br/>and worship him with song<br/>for saving us from wrong.</p>            | <p>4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;<br/>our hearts are open wide in trust.<br/>Oh, show us now your lovely grace,<br/>upon our sorrows shine your face,<br/>and let your Holy Spirit guide<br/>our journey in your grace so wide.<br/>We praise your holy name,<br/>from age to age the same!</p>       |

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: “Once He Came in Blessing”

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## Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Cindy Mayhugh, Assisting Minister

Nelson Langefeld, Reader

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*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

*To give your offering through our website, please visit [stpaulreading.org/online-giving/](http://stpaulreading.org/online-giving/)*

## Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call the after-hours line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Christian**; **Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Kathy Curless**; **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Lee Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton**; **Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister), **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Ervin Oerther** (Portmanns' brother-in-law); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Eric Papin**; **Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brothers); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Ginny Pape**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Brenda Schumacher** (Marilyn Portmann's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith**

(Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadin and Barry Wisecup).

## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship (in-person and  
livestreamed)

4 pm Zoom Fellowship Time

### **Tuesday, December 8**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 9**

6:30 pm Bell Choir

### **Sunday, December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

10:30 am Worship (in-person and  
livestreamed)

4 pm Zoom Sunday School

### **Monday, December 14**

7 pm Council Meeting

### **Tuesday, December 15**

4 pm Bible Study on Zoom

### **Wednesday, December 16**

6:30 pm Bell Choir