

MORNING WORSHIP

Live on Facebook at 10:00 AM

Coffee hour at 11am after service via Zoom

Code: 229508663 PW: 056996

December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Before we begin Worship we acknowledge that we worship on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe (meaning “the people”) People, and we honor their elders both past and present.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Gathering

Today we gather in peace in the name of God, we gather in peace and light two candles with the Creator of Light; +Jesus, the Light of the World; we gather in peace with the Holy Spirit, the Light who illumines our path. Light two candles, breathe in peace, breathe out peace...breathe in peace, breathe out peace... **Amen.**

Hymn #240 vs 2 “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Advent Prayer (written by Rev Deborah Vaughn)

Silently and gently, falling and failing, changing and resting, seeking you, Lord...

We watch, we wait, we dream, we pray...

For the earth to renew, for our hearts to soften, for your grace to cover us, for your justice to pour out, for time and space to listen, for courage to act...

On the edge of Advent, we sit with you...we pause...we hurt...we repent...we rage...

When will it be? Will it ever be? Come quickly, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Gathering Song #247 vs 1 & 3 “O Come Now, O Prince of Peace”


Come now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body,
Come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free,
O God, our savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.


Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**


Kyrie




Lord, have mer - cy on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy on us.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in to our dark-ness. Fill us with your ho - ly love.
Heal all con - flicts be - tween na - tions. Teach us how to live as one.




Be our strength in times of trou - ble. Set us free from chains that bind.
Show us how to love our neigh - bor. Run to those who cry for help.




Breathe new life in - to our spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our hearts and minds.
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our Lord, Em - man - u - el.


Glory to God




Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

God of shalom, we pray for our hearts, our homes, and our world so full of war and rumors of war. Give us the wisdom and courage to be peacemakers, to “come the way of friendship.” Show us the way to prepare for your coming, to make the rough places plain, to help create a lasting shalom in your world, a peace “louder than the explosion of bombs.” Come, Prince of Peace, come. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading Isaiah 40:3-5

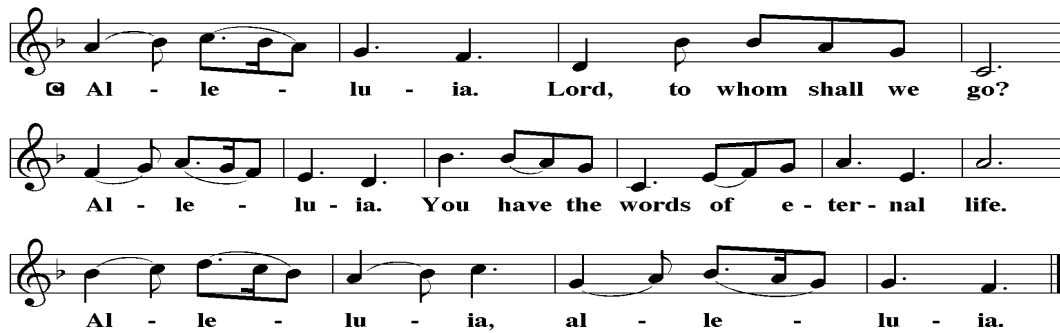
A voice cries out:

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

4 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.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

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

3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

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

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

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon/Reflection

A Poem by Maya Angelou

"Amazing Peace"

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.

Hymn of the Day # 282 ELW vs 1, 3 & 4 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow:
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling.
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Advent Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth.

**The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence,
who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise.
The one who is beyond bluster and flurry, and who does not jostle for attention.**

We believe in God the Son, Saviour of creation, who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed, who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry, who frequently took time alone with his patient Father, who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant, who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers, whose silence overpowered their words, who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes, sometimes arriving with obvious power, sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God who patiently waits for us, and who longs for us to do the same.



Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens 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, judgement, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. 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 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 congregations who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companions to all who are lonely, tend to those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people in our families and communities who are in need or distress. Send them hope and signs of your healing especially for Wally and Colleen, Paula, Chick, Bill, Ruthann, Beverly, Chuck, Wilma, Brad, Audra, Barb, Gene, Deb, "Tiny," Pavel, Alla, Oliver and Victoria. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who suffer from the coronavirus, and those who have died from the coronavirus. Receive the dead into your gentle embrace and comfort their loved ones with the power and protection of your peace. Give hope and healing to those who are sick and protection and healing hands and hearts, to the care givers and those on the front lines. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. 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.**

Peace

This ancient ritual of peace-offering is a reminder of our deepest human connections, and our need for each other on a huge level, our interconnectedness, a reminder that we don't walk through life alone, Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

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

Cross your hands over your heart. Close your eyes. Move your hands to your shoulders. Squeeze. Feel the hugs and the peace of the people.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray:

God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our resources, trusting you will use us to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May we give glory to you as our offerings continue to shine in your created Kingdom. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you hope. Amen.

Sending Hymn #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteous-ness!
Light and Life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Go in peace and know that Christ goes with you! **Thanks be to God.**