

Morning Prayer – Rite II
Second Sunday of Advent – Year B

December 6, 2020

Prelude: “Partita on ‘Hark, the Glad Sound” - *Bouman*

Opening Hymn: “Comfort, comfort ye my people” **Hymn #67**

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| 1. Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace,
thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in
darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for
them; tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare
now is over. | 2. Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far
and near, calling us to new repentance since the
kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to
meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him. |
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Welcome and Announcements:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Isaiah 40:3

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”
(Luke 3:2b-6)

Advent Wreath Lighting “O Come O Come Emmanuel”
Grant Holsinger, bass

(*V.s. 3*) O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(*V.s. 4*) O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. **Refrain**

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept*

Officiant and People

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 neighbors 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

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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.

Here ends the Lesson.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his 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.

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Interlude:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
Rachel Schmitt, piano

- *Keesecker*

Second Lesson

Mark 1:1-8

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.”

Here ends the Lesson.

The Sermon

The Reverend Diane Tomlinson

Meditation Hymn: “There’s a voice in the wilderness crying”

Hymn #75

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!
2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay, the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away;
3. but the word of our God endureth, the arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst of nations, and he will right the wrong. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd, the lambs he’ll gently hold; to pastures of peace he’ll lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

The Collect of the Day: *(Officiant)*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dear God, we pray with faith in the power of your presence

Today in the hope which Advent brings for the creation of new visions, expectations, and possibilities for us and our world.

In our wildest, most daring dreams of peace in the world, we pray for the welfare and safety of all your people, nations, and religions, living with tolerance, respect, and equality of freedom for all.

For Emmanuel Parish, those whose efforts sustain this church, our clergy, Bishop, and all churches of God throughout the world, we pray for your guidance and blessings.

We pray for healing as you know is needed, for those in unbearable circumstances, the homeless, the prisoners, the fearful, those who are threatened or captive. We pray for those in sickness and those on our parish prayer list; especially Children & Families of Emmanuel, Dale, Ellen, Kevin, Larry, Mary, Maryanne, Nick, Owen, Patrick, Rich, Sam, Sean, baby granddaughter to Alan & Barrie and for our families, friends, and neighbors.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays, especially *Jody Edwards (12/04)*; *Bruce James (12/04)*; *Linna Liken-Aduddell (12/05)*; *Noel Saenz (12/06)*; *Sybil White (12/06)*; *Alan Gibby (12/07)*; *Kay Hatch (12/07)*; *Ruth Wheaton-Cox (12/08)*; *David Hooks (12/12)*; *Tammy Hooks (12/12)* and those celebrating anniversaries.

We pray for those who have died, especially John, Phyllis, Toshie *Toe-shee-aa (long a sound)*, those we hold in our hearts, and those who have gone before us to your heavenly joy.

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

Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

“Hark, the glad sound!”
Rachel Schmitt, soprano

Hymn #72

1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

Announcements

The church remains closed for worship during mitigation. There are no in-person meetings per Bishop Lee.

Wednesdays during Advent: We examine what the gospels tell us of the birth of Jesus in “Light of the World” a presentation by Amy-Jill Levine. We will meet on zoom. There is a study guide available through Amazon, but it is not necessary to participate. If you have any questions, contact Diane.

Virtual Labyrinth Walk: Advent brings about a renewed sense of anticipating what is to come. The Latin adventus means “arrival” and the anticipation of that emergence of Holy Light into our lives. Like the iconic Advent wreath circle of wholeness, we gather to honor our journey by walking the labyrinth, this year in the form of online finger walks.

Each **Wednesday at 6:30 CST**, a 30-minute walking meditation is offered throughout Advent as the days grow darker and the lighted path grows brighter. Our online circle will celebrate the progression of lighted candles of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. Labyrinth printout link

Stewardship: Just a friendly reminder, please make sure that you send in your pledge card.

Retirement: December 20th at Noon We toast Gale and wish her well. Gale will be sorely missed in the office she has been a good friend to us all. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2990474775>

Calendar of Upcoming Events!:

Lessons and Carols Sunday, **December 20 at 4 pm**

Blue Christmas Monday, **December 21 at 7 pm**

Christmas Eve Friday, **December 24, 6 pm**

Christmas Day 10 am

Christmas I & II 10:30

Services are broadcast on Facebook, and you do not need an account to view them.

Aspire Presents: Join us after the New Year on **Wednesday, January 6, at 7 pm**, for the fifth program in the series of “Not Your Ordinary Saints.” The program will be available via *Zoom (no masks or social distancing required)*. This is the fifth of the series that will highlight – Francis Perkins and will be presented by Millie Zimmerman and Ruth Cox. Go to www.emmanuelrockford.org or follow our Facebook page for future dates and details.

Book Club: Diane is starting a Book Club which will **meet at 7 pm Wednesday, January 13th** via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2990474775> - We will discuss Bishop Curry's book "Love is the Way" Hope you can join us!

Winter closing in upon us: This can be a time of isolation, but it doesn't have to be so. Small groups are forming for socializing via Zoom. If you are interested, let Diane know.

