

Peace



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

December 09, 2018

Welcome! Enter with Prayer, Worship in Awe, Leave to Serve.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

WELCOME TO THE STORY

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. All the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

A Story that Invites Us

Singing Bowl



During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . *Leilani Camara & Michael Keating*

WELCOME

Please Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us come before God in confession.

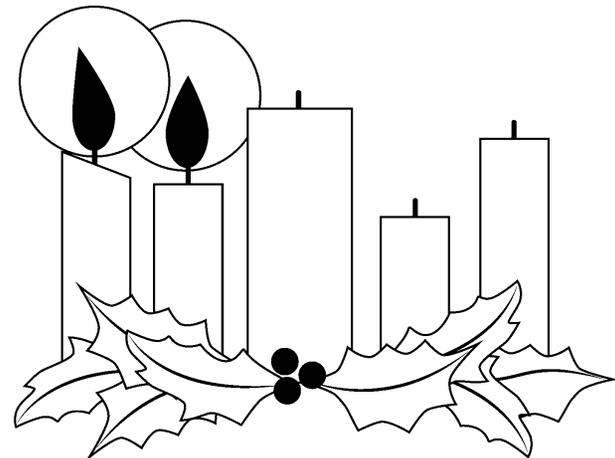
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: To you, O God,

All: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

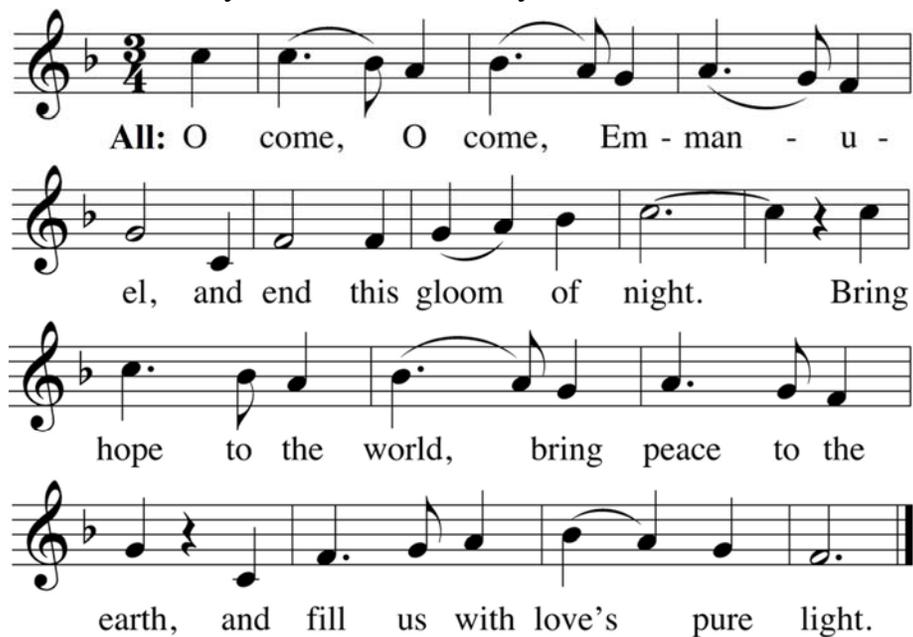
P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.

All: We will stand up and raise our heads! The reign of God is near. Amen.



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING . . . "Love's Pure Light"

Choir: Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, Redeemer, Savior of all,
Hear thy servants when they call.



All: O come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
hope to the world, bring peace to the
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

LITANY . . . Hope for God's Peace

L: In this season of Advent, we pray for God's peace.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We witness the hostility between nations and neighbors.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We see a world full of fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

L: We seek relief from our own inner turmoil and restlessness.

All: Christ is our light and the source of our peace.

Candle is lit

*P: This morning we light **two candles**, the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that Christ came into our world to restore peace, and that only through trust in God's word and his promises can we find our own inner peace.*

All: We remember that Christ is the Prince of Peace who taught us that through simple acts of love and forgiveness peace is spread throughout the world.



All: O come, O come, Em - man - u -
el, and end this gloom of night. Bring
hope to the world, bring peace to the
earth, and fill us with love's pure light.

Choir: Bring hope and joy and peace,
And fill us with love's pure light.

CLOSING PRAYER OF CANDLE LIGHTING

P: Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey we thank you for sending the Prince of Peace into a world filled with unrest and strife.

All: We ask that you quiet our restless hearts and instill in each of us the calm assurance that tells us you are in control so we need not worry. Give us the tools we need to serve you as you would have us serve, and make us willing instruments of your peace. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait in joyful expectation.

All: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, shed your light on all that is filled with darkness.

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait with hope-filled hearts.

All: Draw close, God's beloved Son, teach us the wonder of your all-embracing love.

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait for God's redeeming presence.

All: Draw close, Savior of all creation, our hearts ache for justice, our minds long for holiness, our spirits seek for unity.

L: The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait attentive to the signs of his coming.

All: Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, God beyond imagining, fully God yet truly human, draw close. Amen.

OPENING HYMN . . . "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

vs. 1, 2

Text: Charles Coffin - Tune French carol - Cranberry Book #249



1 On Jor - dan's banks the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, and let us all our



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

GREETING

P: Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near! God is with you.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.

All: By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be Seated

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . "Comfort, Comfort"

The Story that Shapes and Forms Us

READING . . . *Philippians 1:3-11*

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the

defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION . . . tune: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

All: **Lord, to whom else shall we go
Words of deathless life to know?
Not by bread alone we live,
But by ev'ry word You give.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

P: *The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the third chapter.*

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

GOSPEL . . . Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of

Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, 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.'"

P: *The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**



Prepare the Way

HYMN OF THE DAY . . . “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” vs. 1, 3

Text: James Lewis Milligan - Tune: Henry Hugh Bancroft
Cranberry Book #255



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
3 O the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
arm of our God is strong, who stands in the midst of the
high - way, a high - way for our God!
na - tions and soon will right the wrong.
The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Lord, feed your flock like a shep - herd, the
loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
lams so gent - ly hold; in pas - tures of peace now
plac - es where God, our God, may go!
lead them, and bring them to your fold.

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . Pastor Tim

A Story that Feeds Us



INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: We have been told the days are surely coming. We have been given signs.

All: The Promised One is coming, and we wait in expectation.

L: We have a message to give the world, a message of promises about to be fulfilled. Our offering will enable this church community to proclaim this message as clearly as we can.

All: It also enables us individually to show our gratitude, even as we wait. Amen.

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . “In the Bleak Midwinter”

All: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us.

All: Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation. Prepare your church to share the good news, life-giving God. Put your word within us and dwell among us. Send us out to proclaim the mercy and salvation that abides in you. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Purify the hearts of all people, life-giving God. Remove the hate that lives within us and among us. Mold us into peacemakers. Raise up leaders rooted in your love and fed by your word. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Comfort all who hurt, life-giving God. Wrap them in your tender care. Remember the forgotten and send us out to share your love with them. Be with the wandering, the worried, and the woeful. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

L: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

**A CAROL SETTING FOR HOLY
COMMUNION**

THE PREFACE . . . tune: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

L: Oh, may the good Lord be with you.

All: And may the Lord be with you too.

L: Lift your hearts to God in praise.

All: To the Lord our hearts we raise.

L: Let us offer praises true.

All: It is fitting so to do:

Gratefully we sing to the Lord, our King!



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lord God, we anticipate again the birth of your Son. As we stand on the threshold of the fulfillment of your greatest promise, we are in awe of the manner in which you have accomplished your purposes. You chose to lift up those whom the world regarded as poor, weak and powerless. You frustrated the efforts of those who considered themselves to be great and powerful. Guide us this Advent Season to deeper levels of commitment to your kingdom. Open our eyes to see new ways to love you and to serve you in this holy Advent Season. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

THE SANCTUS . . . tune: "From Heaven Above"

**All: As light breaks forth, we sing Your praise
To you, Redeemer of our days,
For we have found in Jesus' birth
Good news of peace and human worth.**

CONSECRATION

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 in 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

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Risen Savior gave us:

All: 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.

FRACTION RITE

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

All: Let us enter into the joy of this feast.

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you forward
after the Lamb of God is sung

LAMB OF GOD . . . tune: "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

**All: O Lamb of God who takes away
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away
our sins, have mercy.**

**O Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of all the earth, we pray:**

Jesus, grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Glory be to God on high.

Holy Communion is open to all.

Grape juice is white, wine is red.

If you desire communion brought to you,
please let an usher know.



COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. - Tune: English folk tune - Cranberry Book #250



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Text: Phillip Doddridge - Tune: Thomas Haweis - Cranberry Book #239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.

Singing Bowl

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.

All: Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

POST COMMUNION THANKS . . . *tune: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen"*

All: Oh, thank the Lord and sing His praise,
What He has done proclaim!
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice
And proudly bear His name
Who leads His thankful people forth
His promises to claim.
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
Oh, tidings of comfort and joy!

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION . . . *tune: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

L: Now may the good Lord bless and keep,
His love in you increase;
Lift up His face with shining grace,
And grant eternal peace.

All: To Father, Son and Spirit,
Eternal One-in-Three,
Be thanks and praise through all our days
And to eternity!

SENDING HYMN . . . *"Prepare the Royal Highway" vs. 1, 4*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén - Tune: Swedish folk tune – Cranberry Book #264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



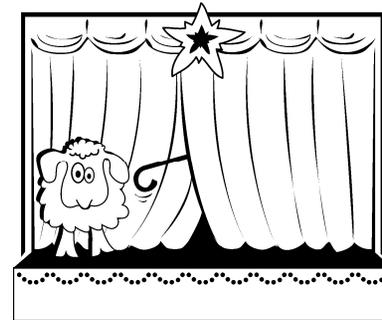
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Please stay for the Sunday School
Christmas Pageant at 10 am.**



"Love's Pure Light" Candle Lighting Ceremony
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