

Celebration of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Verses for Contemplation

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your God.

“Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear that she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of—forgiven! She’s been punished enough and more than enough, and now it’s over and done with.”

Isaiah 40:1-2 (NRSV)

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won’t perish but will have eternal life.

God didn’t send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:16-18 (CEB)

God Invites Us to Worship

PRELUDE *Wexford Carol* arr. Krug
Alleluia Bells

WELCOME

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

We Offer Praise

OPENING SENTENCES

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.”*

* Please stand, if you are able.

- * ADVENT HYMN *Prepare the Way* # 13
- * GOD’S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP
- * PRAYER OF ADORATION

God Speaks with a Heart of Love

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART
Message *Advent and Candles*

We Light the Advent Wreath – The Second Candle

Isaiah 40 and II Peter 3

Reader: Did you hear? A voice will cry out! A voice to prepare the way of the Lord. Make way! Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be made low.

Reader: Yes! Make way! The uneven ground shall become level and the rough places will become a plain.

Reader: We too must be that voice! We too must be preparing the way of the Lord. The glory of the Lord – the glory of our Lord will be revealed and we will know and see along with all people.

Reader: God’s time has come in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The candle is lit.

Reader: What does this mean?

Reader: According to God’s promise we are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

All: We are waiting for a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. This is the coming of the reign of God! Come, Lord Jesus; Come quickly.

- * HYMN *While We Are Waiting, Come* Insert
(Children and Youth are dismissed for Sunday School.)

PRAYER FOR GOD’S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *II Peter 3:8-15a* p. 988

GOSPEL LESSON *Mark 1:1-8* p. 812

SERMON *Hope in the One Who Comes*
Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

We Respond in Re-Dedication

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Come, Child of Peace

Schram

Chancel Choir

Come, Child of peace, come to a world that is longing for peace,
Longing for justice and longing for that little Child who will come,
Come to lead.

Come, Child of peace, come to a world that is lost in despair,
Lost in its darkness and hopelessness; where is the Child who will come,
Come to lead, Child of peace?

The lion will lie with the lamb; together their young will be feeding.
No harm will come on the Lord's holy mountain while He is leading.

Come, Child of peace, Promise of ages and Ruler of all;
Light of eternity, You will be that little Child who will come,
Come to lead, Child of peace. Come, Child of peace. Come.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

Leader: Through Christ we are forgiven and called to a new life – to
live as prophets of the King.

All: Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION AND PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending* # 6

God Sends Us Out to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE 4 MISSION

* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* POSTLUDE