



Sunday, December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Loving and forgiving God, **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.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1-4)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us you will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O Come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

L: We praise you, O God, for these lights that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: As we light these candles, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Amen.

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of hope;
Hope for the world to calm its fear, hope for the news we long to hear,
Hope in a child who will soon appear. Light one candle of hope.**

**Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of faith;
Faith that can heal a world in need, faith that can conquer hate and greed,
Faith in a child who will come to lead. Light one candle of faith.**

Scripture Readings

First Reading: 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 forever.

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.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.
Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

L: Word of God; word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15

But 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. 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. 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.

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, 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

L: Word of God; word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message: Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Sermon Notes:

Hymn of the Day: Comfort, Comfort Now My People

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers

P: Hear us, O God, C: **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Communion

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

Distribution of Elements

Communion Hymn: He Came Down

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

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

Let us pray. Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold is sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!



PRAYER CARE Donna Lindgren, Don Grover, Vicki Ford, Dave Danberg, Geri Swenson and the family of Andy Swenson, the family of Duane Rudquist, Caroline Greene, Nia Glynn, Doris Fors, Ann Rue, Helen Swanson, the Hackmann Family, the family of Joe Mallery, Dan Petersen, Julie Valez, the family of Margaret Dale, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg, the family of Brian Maloney, Leo Nelson, Caren Carlson, Rose Anderson, Gail Johnson & the rest of David Clow's family, Yutaro Nakanishi, the family of Annie Lindgren, Cheryl Slattengren, the family of John Solheim, Deb & Jerry Rhoads and family of Marilyn Burnes, Darlene & Don Mueller and family.



12-6-20 at 10am Coffee Hour on Zoom

Visit our website for link!

Intergenerational Faith Formation:

Outdoor Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 13th

11:00am to 11:15am

Bring a lawn chair and please wear a face mask.

Free will offering for hot cocoa & cookies to follow the pageant.

- **ELCA Good Gifts.** We are collecting donations for goats and bees with ELCA Good Gifts through today!
 - ⇒ A \$20 donation will send the gift of bees, providing honey to eat, and beeswax for candles & soap. Bonus! Bees will also pollinating plants everywhere they go!
 - ⇒ A \$50 donation will send the gift of a goat, providing fresh milk for children & families. Bonus! Goats are quick to reproduce, providing an opportunity for families to pass the gift to others!

Need Pastoral Care?

Call Pastor Dwight 651-829-4884

Have questions or in need of something?

Church Office: 651-465-5265

Office Hours:

Monday 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Tuesday 8:30am - 12:30pm

Thursday 8:30am - 11:30am

Email: parishc@tflutheran.org
(this email is checked daily)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Wendy Szczepanski

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Video Credits

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Toni Brekke: Organ

Natalie Landgreen: Vocals

Miriam Lagus: Lector

Carli Linngren: Photography

Angie Linngren: Photography, Filming & Editing