

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT HOLY COMMUNION

6 December 2020

GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

1. 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 in sacred story:

Refrain:

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

2. 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!

Refrain

3. 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:

Refrain

4. 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:

Refrain

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 1

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.

- 1: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent.
- 2: As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.
- 3: Enlighten us with your grace that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.
- 4: Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen

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“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

v. 5

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Eternal God, grant us wisdom to see your purpose, and the openness to hear your will, that we may prepare the way for Christ and his coming kingdom of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From *Book of Common Worship*, edited, © 1993 Westminster/John Knox Press.

WORD

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God’s people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

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Al-le-lu-ia-Al-le-lu-ia! We come, Oh—
Lord, to hear the good news, To hear— your good word.

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

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CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

Pastor Aaron Couch

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way
for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
4. Stretch forth your hand,
our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Assistant: As we wait in hope for our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

After each petition...

Assistant: God of faithfulness,

People: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude...

Pastor: Hear our prayers, O God of steadfast love, as we wait and watch for all your promises to be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

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HOLY COMMUNION

SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

SETTING THE TABLE “The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing,
the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav’n are open wide,
and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain:

**Sing with thankfulness
songs of pure delight.
Come and revel
in heaven’s love and light.**

**Take your place at
the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin,
the feast is ready to begin.**

3. The hungry heart he satisfies,
offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav’n
and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: It is indeed right and good...

...To you, O God, be praise and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: While we wait and watch for God to gather all creation together, even now Christ is with us to feed us with forgiveness and love. The body of Christ is given for us. The blood of Christ is shed for us.

A brief time of quiet reflection...

BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in God's grace.

People: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray.

**People: God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbors with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen**

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SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the holy and living God ✠ bless you in darkness and in light, in fasting and in feasting, in sadness and in joy.

People: Amen

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CLOSING HYMN

“All Earth Is Hopeful”

1. All earth is hopeful,
the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open
for God’s creative task:
this, the labor of people
who struggle to see
how God’s truth and justice
set ev’rybody free.
2. People of Israel,
you heard the prophet tell:
“A virgin mother
will bear Emmanuel”;
she conceived him, “God with us,”
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage
to children of this earth.
3. Mountains and valleys
will have to be prepared;
new highways opened,
new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing
in beauty and grace!
All clear ev’ry gateway,
in haste, come out in haste!
4. We first saw Jesus
a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus
today has come to live
in our world; he is present,
in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us,
and ever sets us free.

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SENDING

Assistant: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

People: Thanks be to God.

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