

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Lighting the Second Advent Candle

A prophet speaks, and a psalmist sings,
telling us how God will come:

Comfort my people, bring comfort to them,
says your God. . . .

Clear a road through the wilderness. . . .

Prepare a highway across the desert for our God. . . .

Then will the glory of God be revealed
and all humankind shall see it. . . .

(Isa. 40:1–11 REB)

Love and faithfulness will come together.
Justice and peace will embrace.

(Ps. 85:10 REB)

We light our second candle
as a prayer of hope and longing,
that God's glory may be revealed on earth,
through justice, peace, and faithful love.

Living God, come to our world.
Help us to recognize your presence
wherever people make peace,
show kindness, keep their promises,
and do what is right. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Immanuel:

All: God with us.

One: Incarnation:

All: God in the flesh.

One: Into this world...

All: ...God comes, with us, in us, for us.

One: Come, let us worship the God who comes.

OPENING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” GtG 88

One: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Is-ra-el,

**All: that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice!**

One: Rejoice!

**Unison: Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.**

One: O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:

**All: to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go.**

One: O come, thou Dayspring,

**All: come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;**

One: disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

All: and death's dark shadows put to flight.

One: O come, Desire of nations,

**All: bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;**

One: bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

**All: fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice!**

One: Rejoice!

**Unison: Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God of forgiveness,
we confess that we have not led lives of holiness.
With our tongues we speak evil against our sisters and brothers.
By our actions, we disobey your commandments.
Hostility is bred through our suspicion and envy;
anger continues in spite of Christ's peace.
You open our eyes to his righteousness,
yet we remain blind to the truth of his reconciling presence.
Forgive our deliberate misuse of your mercy,
and in Christ hear our prayer. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Mark 1, John 3, & Matthew 1)*

- One: "The right time has come, and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"
- All: **The Good News is this: "God loved the world so much that God gave God's only Son."**
- One: Friends, let us believe the Good News of the Coming One: his name is "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
- All: **So let us rejoice and be glad! For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen!**

THE PEACE

- One: The peace of Christ be with you.
- All: **And also with you.**
- (From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)*

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-8

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON "The Cost of Comfort" by Pastor Bill Vincent

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: God of comfort and peace...
People: ...hear us in our prayers.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

Unison Prayer of Dedication

While we wait and prepare for Christ to come, we seek, O God, to act as faithful followers. May our offerings extend the promise of peace to those whose lives are broken by neglect, abuse, bad choices, and sinful ways. May our gifts offer hope to all whose suffering and loss seem too heavy to bear. May our church be a listening, caring presence for all whom we meet. In the saving grace of Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

CLOSING HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" GtG 123

One: It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
**All: from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:**
One: "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King":
**All: the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

One: Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world:

**All: above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

One: Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;

**All: beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;**

One: and we at war on earth hear not
the tidings that they bring;

**All: O, hush the noise and cease the strife
to hear the angels sing!**

One: And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now,

**All: for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:**

One: O, rest beside the weary road,

All: and hear the angels sing.

One: For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,

**All: when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,**

One: when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,

**All: and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

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CHARGE AND BLESSING

One: Announce the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: Prepare the way for Christ's witness to be heard.

One: Christ brings hope for true peace to all people.

All: God is patiently waiting for us to claim this gift.

One: We turn our hearts and minds toward God.

All: We rejoice that we can be servants in Christ's name.

One: And may the blessing of God,
 Eternal Majesty, Living Word, and Holy Comforter,
 be with you now and always.
 And let the gathered people of God say...

All: **...Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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