

WELCOME:

Prayer of Confession: (Isaiah 40)

God of love and kindness,
you have promised to renew our lives,
to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—
a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness
embrace forever.
We are afraid of your promised coming.
We cling to rules we understand:
the rules of privilege and power.
We are afraid of a world of true justice and peace,
afraid that you will change the way
things have always been.
As we wait for you to live among us,
we confess our unwillingness to see
that you have always been here.

Words of Assurance: (Isaiah 40)

In God's love and mercy,
we are called to embrace each new day
for the healing of the world.
In the name of Christ, + you are forgiven.
Go in peace, serve the Lord. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Verse 2:

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.

Refrain:

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

Text: *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

Watch and wait for the coming of Christ! Each week of Advent we will light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, as we welcome these gifts of the Christ child born in our hearts to share with the world.

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace. May its light shine rays of peace upon us and enlighten us to reflect the peace of Christ radiantly upon our neighbors and our world.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
Help us to prepare for your Advent within the world,
Prepare our hearts to receive you in peace,
and send us to share your peace with all we meet. Amen.

OFFERING:

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"He is Lord/O Come Let Us Adore Him" – Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)

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FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

Reader Mike McClellan

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get 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!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He 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: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Come, Light Our Hearts"

For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
For You, O Lord our souls in stillness wait
Truly our hope is in You
Truly our hope is in You

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GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,' "

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON: Pastor Andrea Cain

SERMON SONG: ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful (Verses 1, 2, 4)

- 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.

- 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.



Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
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OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

Advent Prayer:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Christ, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Your season comes, Lord.

Come once again,
and feed your flock like a shepherd.

Come once again,
and gather up the children, the oppressed,
the sick, the lonely, the humble,
and the rejected of the earth.

Turn our hearts to the least of your children,
for if we lose them,
we become lost.

Reconcile us to you
and to those we have hurt.

At this Advent,
join us together with neighbors, with strangers,
and especially with our own household.

Bring us to your light
in our time of darkness,
and help us to shine your light
through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

~ from *First Sunday of Advent Prayers and Litanies*, posted on the **Ministry Matters** website.

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

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.



SENDING SONG: ELW 254 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

BENEDICTION:

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill your heart with hope,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.
Amen.

Musicians: Daniel Decker (vocalist), Michael Lottes (vocalist),
Christine Soll (piano) and James Soll (guitar)