



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "I Lift My Eyes Up" with "In the Bleak Midwinter"

## Gathering

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reader: 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.

Reader: 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..."

Reader: We light this candle as a reminder that

**All:** "...the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

*From Isaiah 40*

**All Singing:** 107 "Come Light, Light of God"  
*Singing twice*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: 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!"

**All:** **See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.**

Liturgist: 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.  
*From Isaiah 40*

\* **All Singing: 60** **“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”**

\* GOD’S GREETING

\* GOD’S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing: 57** **“All Earth is Waiting”**

*Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”*

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

## Reconciliation

Liturgist: From the Gospel of Mark: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

**All:** **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,”**

Liturgist: John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

**All:** **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.**  
*Mark 1:1-5*

*Silent Confession and Reflection*

Choir: “Advent Introit” Manuel

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, says our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression’s load.  
Speak you to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

Hark! The herald’s voice is calling in the desert far and near,  
bidding us to make repentance since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

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

*Johann Olearius (1611-84), Tr. Catherine Winkworth*

Liturgist: 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.”  
*Mark 1:6-8*

\* **All Singing:** 56 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All:** In the promise and presence of the Holy Spirit, speak to us through Scripture and proclamation that we might see the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Comfort

\* **All Singing:** 781 “My Only Comfort”

## Dedication

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Grace in Garfield Park

OFFERTORY “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Georg Bohm

\* **All Singing:** 70 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”  
*Singing verse 5*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing:** “Stars in the World”  
*Singing verse 5*

Paul van der Bijl

**God will give you strength, God will give you peace,  
God will give you hope in your time of need.**

**Go in the name of Christ, go with the Word of life,  
Shine like the stars in this darkening world.  
Walk in his love, filled with his joy, blameless and pure.**

Postlude

**Worship Leaders**

Organist: Dora Diephouse  
Pianist / Vocalist: Erin Pacheco  
Flutist: Lynn Hollender  
Postlude Pianist: Karis Dykstra  
Guitarist: Jenson Varghese  
Percussion: Clay Carlson  
Choir Director: David Baar  
Guest Conductor: Lori Evenhouse  
Minister: Roger Nelson

Advent: Van Wyngarden Family  
Liturgist: Kris Jousma  
Prayer: Dave Jousma

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