



# Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

\* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able  
*italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation*

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH JOEL RANEY

Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:  
prayers of those who seek re - lief.  
End their dark - ness, hear their call for  
peace on earth, good will for all.

© 2019 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188  
www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049  
All rights reserved. International copyright secured.

The Publisher grants permission to reproduce this page for the congregation.

## Litany

*Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.*

**Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.**

*Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.*

**Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.**

*Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.*

**Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.**

*Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.*

**Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.**

## OPENING PRAYER

God of light, we thank you for the sacrifice you made in sending your Son, and we pray today that you will fill us with a deep sense of peace. Lighten our anxious moments. Help us keep our minds focused on your love and take away our feelings of hopelessness and despair. May we remember that we are your instruments of peace and help us to spread that peace to the world around us. Amen.

**\*HYMN #87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1. "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. "Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow's load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."

2. 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. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

3. 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.

**CALL TO CONFESSION AND RECONCILIATION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND BROKENESS**

**Into the dark depths of our fear and anguish, you, O Lord, reach out to us. We need your guidance this day, for we have found it far too easy to stray into selfish pathways. We seek first our own comfort; we gather our toys and trinkets and proclaim that all is right with the world, yet our hearts feel strangely discomfited. Guide us and gather us, Lord. Teach us again to be people of peace and hope. Help us to cast off the mantle of greed and hatred. Forgive us for the many times when we have ignored the cries of those in need; when we have turned our backs on opportunities to help others. Forgive us, Lord. Touch our hearts and bring your bright light of salvation to them that we might turn again to you and in your love may be part of ministries of peace and justice. Help us again to hear the voice of one who cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God." In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE AND BLESSING**

... Jesus died for me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves me. Jesus is good to me. Amen.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 40:1-11

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. John Francis Wade  
Betsy Sell, Flute and Paul Wachtendorf, Trumpet

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

**\*HYMN #106** Prepare the Way, O Zion

1. Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

2. He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Mark 1:1-8

**SERMON** 100 Comfort Street

## ***CALL FOR THE OFFERING AND MOMENT OF FRIENDSHIP***

### ***OFFERTORY***

#### ***\*DOXOLOGY***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### ***PRAYER OF DEDICATION***

Creator and Giver of all things, we thank you that we can come here this day and offer our gifts. Use them to spread the news that Christ comes so that all may dwell in peace. Help us to break down whatever hostility divides us and hear us as we dedicate ourselves anew to becoming your agents of reconciliation. Amen.

### ***SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS***

#### ***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER***

Our Father, who is 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.

#### ***\*HYMN #123*** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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

2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with its woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

4. 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, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

5. For lo, the days are hastening on by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

#### ***\*BENEDICTION***


### ***POSTLUDE***

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECEMBER 10 2023***

This week's carillon is in memory Mr. and Mrs. Tobias Kratz Landis who are the parents of Given Landis.

## **CHRISTMAS MUSICAL – NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>: "Star Search".**

The entire musical takes place amongst the stars in the sky. It is the story of the Savior's birth told from an inspiring perspective! Come share the experience and support our Singers and Actors. Followed by a festive reception in our Fellowship Hall.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**  This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Our worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> will be held first at 10:00 AM when we will observe the fourth Sunday of Advent. A second service at 6:00 PM which will be a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service including lessons in carols and special music.

**BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY EVENINGS:** Join us as we continue to make our way through the season of Advent by exploring Scripture. Together we will study the meaning of the birth of Jesus through the sights and sounds of Advent. Each week we will consider one of our senses and its unique encounters during Advent. We will discover how these senses become signs for us pointing to the incarnation when God took human form to experience the world as we do. Please join us at 7pm on Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875>

**YOUTH GROUP:** Next gathering - December 17: Christmas Escape Room (at the church)

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:** This week we are asking for the following items: Cleaning products. Donations are to be placed in the wagon located in the vestibule.

|                         |             |          |   |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|---|
| <b><u>Calendar:</u></b> | December 10 | 8:30 am  | Handbell Choir Rehearsal                                  |
|                         |             | 10:00 am | Worship Service, followed by Fellowship and Sunday school |
|                         | December 11 | 7:00 pm  | Boy Scout Troop Meeting                                   |
|                         | December 12 | 6:00 pm  | Beekeepers Meeting  |
|                         | December 13 | 12:00 pm | Bring your Brown bag lunch for Fellowship.                |
|                         | December 14 | 7:00 pm  | Bible Study on Zoom                                       |

**Elder of the month:** Courtney Woolslayer      **Deacon of the month:** Merrily Henley  
**Ushers:** Sharon Ruth and Emilie Cullerton      **Fellowship Hour Host:** Martha Greenwood

**Advent Wreath Lighting:** Kaityn Voegele and Edna Voegele La Montagne  
**Sunday School Teacher:** Michael Myers

*In our thoughts and prayers:*

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Raymond Tinari, Jim Turner, Violet Sanders,  
Mary Lou Humlhanz, David Posnett, Pat Pizza, Kara Holton



**Church Staff**  
**Susan Fall, Pastor**  
**Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music**  
**Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator**  
**Frank Orzechoski, Financial Manager**

