

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 6, 2020

The Hymnal 1982 - #76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and hear - en,  
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.  
Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Dear friends in Christ, as we travel towards Bethlehem in this season of Advent, we come together in the midst of a busy season to take a breath; to slow down as we anticipate Jesus' coming into the world. We are invited for a time to breathe in together the life that God gives us. To listen for the beat of God's heart and the blessings and lessons this season brings to us. Each week we light an Advent candle as a symbol of our journey. With its light comes our prayers and our stories.

The candle for this second week of Advent is a candle of PEACE.

Today the flame of this candle reminds us of the peace that Jesus brings into this world and his presence with us now. Jesus said "I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It is not like the peace that this world can give. So do not be worried or afraid."

O God, we kindle this flame with anticipation. We long for you to come to our world, to break through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.

Amen.

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, so that we may truly love you, and worthily praise your holy name; through our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Jesus the light of the world comes to dispel the shadows of our hearts. Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Most Holy God, in the midst of this season of expectation and new life, we confess:

*We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. Holy Trinity, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.*

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us glorify the Holy One as we say:

*O Light of the world, first born of creation, radiance of glory, light from light begotten. God self-revealing, holy, bright and blessed, you shine upon us. Day's light is fleeting, your light is eternal and we look to you our light within the shadow. We sing to you O Creator, Christ and Spirit, you shine before us. Light of our world, O Jesus Christ we bless you; giver of life and Child of God we praise you. Here with us the universe proclaims your glory, as you shine among us. Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

### **The Collect of the Day**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from Isaiah 40:1-11**

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. 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. 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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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..

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people

*Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
*you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.*

You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
*and blotted out all their sins.*

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
*for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.*

Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
*that his glory may dwell in our land.*

Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
*righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
*and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
*and our land will yield its increase.*

Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
*and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.*

### **A Reading from 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to God's people  
*Thanks be to God*

### **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark 1:1-8**

*Glory to you O Christ.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "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,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Sermon

Let us affirm our hope in Christ our Light:

*We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives  
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,  
whose love was crucified by the evil that seeks to enslave us all,  
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and doubting, we trust in God;  
and, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves,  
in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace,  
to care for the earth and to share the common wealth of God's goodness,  
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love;  
And in company of the faithful, to be the Church,  
for the glory of God. Amen.*

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT

O God whose Messiah's coming we await, keep us awake and alert to watch for the signs of your coming. As the fig tree puts forth its leaves and the portents of the new day dawns, keep us awake and alert for the second advent of Christ our Savior.

Keep us awake and alert to our humble calling to be the church of Christ in the world. Empower all bishops, priests and deacons to proclaim justice and truth as they care for your holy people. Christ our hope;  
*Shine in our hearts.*

Keep us awake and alert to the needs and wants of the nations of the world. Enlighten the leaders of all nations to attend to the needs of the lowest and the least, the last and the left-out, that justice and peace may be our strength and equity our common good. Christ our hope;  
*Shine in our hearts.*

Keep us awake and alert to the needs of the sick and suffering. Embolden our love that we may care with compassion for those in need. Give them to know of the healing care of Jesus. Christ our hope;  
*Shine in our hearts.*

Keep us awake and alert to the needs of friends and strangers. Energize this community of faith to reach out with compassion to transform our neighborhoods and communities to reflect the beloved community of peace. Christ our hope;  
*Shine in our hearts.*

Keep us awake and alert to those who mourn, those who grieve and those who are despondent or depressed. Enable us to be Christ hands of healing and wholeness that we may be agents of comfort and hope. Christ our hope;  
*Shine in our hearts.*

Keep us awake and alert to the shortness of our time. Enfold those who have ended their course on earth and have joined the martyrs and saints in the region of light. May we, in our own time, come to the joys of your eternal reign. Christ our hope;

*Shine in our hearts.*

O God, encourage, embolden and energize your people to keep awake and alert to the coming of Jesus the Christ, that he, at his second Advent, may find us ready to greet him and eager to serve those in need; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## **Blessings and Announcements**

### **Birthdays:**

**Pam Simpson, Mike Sebright, Amy Skinker, Laura Watt, Charlie Caspari**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Anniversaries: John and Kate Kavanaugh**

Let us pray in the way that Christ taught us.

*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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*You create the fruit of the vine; we long for the day when you will once again refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*You bring forth bread from the earth; we long for the day when we may once again partake of the bread of life the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe.

*You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the Eucharistic fast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## **THE THANKSGIVING**

God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son. In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.

*You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone. Strengthen our community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world.*

Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.

*Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel and give us the grace to see the face of Christ in the people with whom we live. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God; that we who have celebrated Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

*And also with you.*

We have lit this candle as a symbol of our faith in the coming of Christ among us. Faith that God sees us and meets us even in the messiness of life. We now embody Christ's living flame. Let us be the light to a world in need of light, that we may be guided to Emmanuel, God with us, once more.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

The Hymnal 1982 - #67 Comfort, comfort ye my people



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



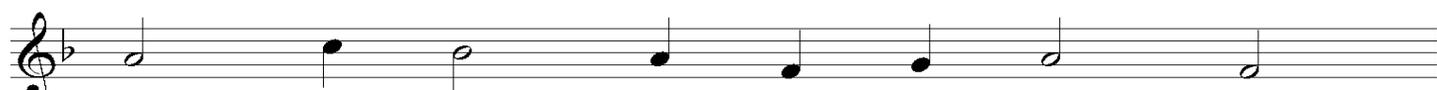
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Dismissal by Clarence Cherry

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The flowers are given in the Glory of God by  
Jackie Kavanaugh in memory of  
Her mother Edith McQuitty

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