



The Second Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE Cascade Percussion Ensemble

- *God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman*
Traditional arr. Nathan Daughtrey

- *Silent Night*
Franz Gruber, arr. Nathan Daughtrey

- *Renaissance Carols*
Traditional arr. Keith Larson

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The prophet Isaiah calls us to watch for the messenger God will send us, a messenger who burns with a passion for God's peaceful reign:

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces God's salvation, who says, 'Your God reigns!'" (Isaiah 52:7)

Congregation:

In a world driven by a passion to maintain the status quo of power-seeking and ego-inflation, we choose to live with a passion for God's peace, to listen to those who call us to humility, and to submit ourselves to God's grace, that we might be refined and purified until we reflect God's love throughout the earth.

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to passionately pursue the work of making peace in our hearts, our families, our communities, and throughout the earth until God's kin-dom comes on earth as it is in heaven.

HYMN # *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Savior God,
we long for your peace
and want to trust in your promises;
we hear your call to turn toward you,
to change our lives and welcome you in.

Meet us here and fill
our minds with your wisdom
and our hearts with your peace,
that our worship together
may open us to the challenge
of your dream of wholeness for all.
In the name of the One who is coming, we
pray. Amen.

RESPONSE (insert) *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Shepherding God,
guide us through this season
of anticipation and hope.
Comfort our troubled minds,
and strengthen our tired bodies.
Restore the hope this season offers,
that we might lift our voices
with strength and joy!
Straighten the crooked paths,
that we might walk in your ways.
Level the rocky ground,
that we might prepare for your arrival
in our world.

(time for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 40:1

"Comfort, comfort now my people, says your God."

Beloved, know this:
Your sins are forgiven.
The Lord, Emmanuel, abides with you.
The peace announced by the angels is at hand.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

SPECIAL MUSIC Cascade Percussion Ensemble

- *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*
Tabourot/Larson

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 3:1-6
Isaiah 40:1-5

MESSAGE Preparation

HYMN #121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #314 *Christ, Be Our Light*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Cascade Percussion Ensemble

- *Old Welsh Air*
Arr. Nathan Daughtrey

MESSAGE Expectation

HYMN #94 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #105 *People, Look East*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

