

CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Worship Service – Second Sunday of Advent – December 6, 2020

Revised Common Lectionary Readings
Second Sunday of Advent, 2020
Year B

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer*

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. Amen.

**by permission from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press*

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:4-5

Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill 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.

Lighting of the Advent Candles*

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; the one who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

We light these candles as a sign of the present and coming light of Christ.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

Make a highway in the desert for our God.

From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait.

(Light 1st purple candle)

Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain and hill, made low; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

(Light 2nd purple candle)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

**readings are from John 8:12, Isaiah 40:3, Isaiah 64:4, Isaiah 40:4-5, Isaiah 9:2*

Opening Hymn

People Look East (vv. 1, 4, 5)
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #12

Confession *

2 Peter 3:9

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."

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We look for you in the places of power, and ignore your voice spoken from the margins.

Baptize us with the Holy Spirit, that we may repent of our sins, and turn to you in love. Let us hear what you will speak, for surely your salvation is at hand.

**adapted from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, (c) 2014 Westminster John Knox Press, Isaiah 40, and Psalm 85*

(silent confession)

Assurance and Peace

Isaiah 40:8

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Scripture

[Isaiah 40:1-11](#)

[Mark 1:1-8](#)

Sermon

Wilderness Good News

Hymn

Comfort, Comfort You My People
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #3

Announcements

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering
Lynn Correllus, Mission Committee

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**adapted from Book of Common Worship, (c) 1993 Westminster John Knox Press &
Rev. Roger Gench, Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, 2020*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God,
creator and ruler of the universe.

O God, on this second Sunday of Advent, we ponder our human predicament,
recognizing how often we find ourselves overwhelmed by circumstances — stuck in
ditches of various sorts, or given to aimless meandering on paths that lead nowhere, or
buried under by seemingly insurmountable challenges and obstacles. And yet you
have promised to lift every valley, straighten the crooked path and level the mountains
in order to come to us and lead us home.

Indeed, for this reason, Jesus Christ has come into the world. Your very love,
incarnate; your very promises, embodied.

Empower us by your Spirit to see the way you have set before us. Empower us as a
community of faith to accompany one another on the journey. Help us to listen to each
other with compassion when we feel fearful or angry or lost. And help us to recognize
your tender love that is ever before us. Help us to believe the good news of the gospel
that we are not left to our own devices. You have not left us in the ditch or aimlessly
wandering in exile. You have drawn close, dwelling among us in the incarnate Christ,
bringing freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He
came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering. We

rejoice that in his death and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service, that we may herald the good news of the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

We pray for the world of nations, including our own as we continue to grapple with a relentless pandemic, divisions, and the groanings of a sinful world. We pray for all who are grieving loss during these difficult days. O God, help us to live responsibly, in ways that protect the well-being of others. And in ways that courageously seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you.

It is in the hope and promise of our present and coming Lord Jesus Christ, that we ask these things, and together are bold to pray the prayer he taught us, saying

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

The Communion of God's People

Prepare the Way of the Lord
Glory to God Hymnal, #95

Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Prepare the Way
The Presbyterian Hymnal, #13

Charge and Benediction

2 Peter 3:14; Isaiah 40:9

Therefore beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, as heralds of good tidings, lifting up your voice with strength, and do not fear.

Postlude