

Grace Presbyterian Church

Worships God at 11:00 a.m.

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday in Advent

In the sanctuary and live streamed

The Bell Calls Us to Worship

Prelude

Prelude in B-Flat Major

J. S. Bach

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 7 Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth Mit Freuden Zart

Opening Sentences

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayer for the Day (spoken by the pastor; the congregation joining the **Amen**.)

Merciful God, you 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 forever. **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

Lighting the Second Candle in the Advent Wreath

Matt and Sue Cloughen

At the conclusion of the candle lighting service, all stand to sing:

O come, Desire of na- tions, bind All peoples in one *heart* and mind;

Bid envy, strife and dis- cord cease, Fill the whole world with heav- en's peace.

Rejoice; rejoice. Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Is- rael.

Pastor: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Passing of the Peace (Worshippers greet one another with the peace of Christ.)

Welcome, Announcements, and a Word to Children

Prayer for Illumination

Becky Stirling

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13

Unison

Lord, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

Interlude O Come, O Come Emmanuel/O Come, Divine Messiah

Bob Vawter, trombone; Rickie Cooke, baritone horn

arr. Stephen DeSare

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es Ist Ein' Ros'

The congregation sits.

Sermon

At Peace, Waiting

Mike Krech

"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."

2 Peter 3:14

The congregation stands to sing

Hymn 3 Comfort, Comfort You My People Psalm 42

Apostles' Creed Unison; Hymnal, page 14, Traditional

Gloria in Excelsis Refrain of Hymn 23 Gloria

The congregation sits.

Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, and Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors) Unison; Hymnal, page 16, Traditional

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Advent Medley – The Desert Shall Rejoice/
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

The congregation stands to sing the

Doxology 592 Old Hundredth

Benediction

Hymn 13 Prepare the Way Bereden Väg För Herran

Worshippers are invited to sit and conclude worship through the postlude.

Or you may depart the sanctuary quietly and briskly.

Postlude Go Tell It on the Mountain arr. David Lowe

Following the postlude, Pastor Mike Krech will be at the front of the church near the chancel steps and welcomes conversation with any, while masked and physically distanced.

Welcome to worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Today is the second Sunday in Advent, the first season of the new liturgical year.

Isaiah 40, today's Old Testament, is believed to reflect the release of the people of Judah from their captivity in Babylon in the 530's B.C. They are being allowed to return home to Jerusalem, having "received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

Now God's care will lead them back home as a way for the Lord is made through the wilderness, and God will feed the flock like a shepherd

Our Gospel reading from Mark 1 describes John the Baptizer as a forerunner of Jesus.

In the Epistle lesson today, Peter urges patience and faithfulness even if the coming of the Lord seems slow. (JMK)