



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2020 GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please tune your radio to 98.1 FM.

PRELUDE

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

ALBRECHT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 256

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE



1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain!



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign!



To God's peo - ple now pro - claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way!
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
For the reign of God, and for
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the
Lord. For your
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.
mer - cy. A - men.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.


Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Congregation joins the Cantor in singing the Refrain.

Refrain



Christ is our life and Christ our sal-va-tion; no-thing shall we fear.

Cody Jones ©2020

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!"

¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- | fore the Lord
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.

SECOND READING

2 PETER 3:8-15A

A reading from 2 Peter.

⁸Do 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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.

¹¹Since 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, ¹²waiting 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? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

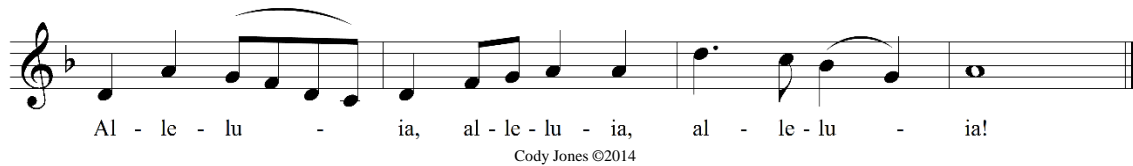
¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation is invited to sing the Alleluia. The Cantor will sing the verse.



GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

PASTOR ANDREW ISENHOWER

SERMON

PASTOR ANDREW ISENHOWER

The Congregation joins the Cantor in singing the Refrain.

Refrain

We shall pre-prepare our hearts for new love. We shall pre-prepare our eyes for the blind-ing light. We shall pre-prepare our faith to break the dark of night. We shall pre-prepare the way of the Lord!

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NICENE CREED

Let us confess our faith.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

The congregation responds to each petition with "Your mercy is great."

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share the peace either by waving to your car neighbors or by taking this time to quickly send a text message offering God's peace.

***Drive-in Service continues with the Great Thanksgiving on page 6.
Online Service continues with Thanksgiving for the Word on page 6.***

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Online Worship continues with the Benediction on page 7.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The Pastor will provide an invitation for those communing to eat the bread, with these words:

Take and eat. This is the body of Christ given for you.
Amen.

Afterwards, the Pastor will also provide the invitation to drink the juice.

Take and drink. This is the blood of Christ shed for you.
Amen.

BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
 Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 257

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save
and give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai’s height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

FEDAK

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Kyrie; We Shall Prepare; Holy, Holy, Holy and O Come, O Come, Emmanuel are reprinted by permission of OneLicense.net license #A-701826. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from OneLicense with license A-701826.

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

- Colonial Gardens Nursing Home** – Irene S. Poole
- Lowman Home** – Rosemarie Brown, Marianne De Werdt, Martha Haigler
- NHC Parklane** – Mary Allen, Becky Silvia
- The Palmettos** – Sara Loyd
- Rice Estate** – Grace Boozer
- Wellmore of Lexington** – Dot Correll, Bev Weymouth
- Wildewood Downs** – Joanna Carpenter, Dot Gibert
- At their homes** – Larry Evans

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Drive-In Worship Service: 79

**While we are not worshiping in the Sanctuary,
Financial Reports may be obtained by calling the church office**

***Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Collections needed: \$8,825**

***Current Expenses & Benevolences Received: \$6,075**

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS OFFERINGS

Food Pantry	\$50	Memorial Fund	\$75
Altar Flowers	\$65	Ramp Ministry – Curtis Easter Memorial	\$450
Youth Mission Fund – Contributions	\$25	Postage Reimbursement	\$5
Christmas Poinsettias	\$112		

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Anna-Marie Plyler to the Glory of God and in memory of her husband Mac Plyler.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING – Join us for a Christmas Carol Sing in the FAB parking lot on Sunday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. This will be a socially distanced event. A sheet with Christmas carols will be sent out prior to the event for printing at home. We will sing the old time favorite Carols, so come and sit around the fire with us and enjoy the season! (The event will be cancelled if it rains.)

A CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held at the beginning of the worship service TODAY, Sunday, December 6 for the purpose of voting on a 2021 budget recommendation from our Congregational Council and two Board positions from the Good Shepherd Foundation.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be handed out this Sunday, December 6, at the beginning of the Drive-In Worship Service for each active Good Shepherd household.

CHRISMON TREE DECORATING TODAY - Sunday, December 6 - Immediately following the Drive-In Service. Members of all ages are encouraged to make weather-tolerant decorations for our OUTDOOR CHRISMON TREE, which will be decorated by all immediately after today's service. The Chrismon Tree will be decorated with the homemade decorations made prior to the event. Masks and social distancing will be required during this event in order to keep everyone safe. Contact Mitch Uehling at mitchuehling@gmail.com or 804-405-8908 for more information.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS –This year council has agreed to produce a recorded video streamed service for Christmas Eve. Our plan is to decorate the church as much like Christmas Eve as possible for the recording. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to help decorate the Sanctuary, please contact the church office. **The cost is \$14 each; fill out a Seasonal Flower Offering envelope and mail to the church office with your money by December 16.** We will list who the poinsettia is placed in honor or memory of in the bulletin as we traditionally have in the past. After the recording we will place the poinsettias in the Chapel for pick up.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE DONATIONS DUE TODAY – Many of you took an Angel Tree reminder card at the Drive-In Worship Service. We are asking for \$25.00 gift cards from Walmart, Visa or MC. **Place return TODAY, Sunday, December 6.**

SALVATION ARMY STOCKINGS DUE TODAY – The stockings must be returned to the church by **TODAY, Sunday, December 6.** If you have any questions, contact Janet Lockhart or Don Caughman.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL ITEMS – The Learning and Worship Life Committees are providing several special items to be used during our Advent season. These Advent materials are available on the table in the Narthex. Please take only what your family will use; materials are limited. We encourage you to use them to enhance your Advent season as we prepare and anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Meet in the FAB on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 a.m. for a Bible Study. *Masks and social distancing required.*

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY will be led by Pastor Andrew each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. A reminder with a meeting link will be sent by email each week.