



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20
Fremont, Ohio 43420
Pastor Tim Miller

Church: 419-332-6820
faithchurch@amplex.net
www.faithfremont.org

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Introduction

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Prelude: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* French/arr. L. Smith
 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying Nicolai/arr. F. Ritter

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Opening Hymn: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ELW 254
 (Please see next page)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Advent Reading

Hymn: *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (vs. 1&2) ELW 240

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-11

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. God will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for the sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of God.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 40th chapter.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

²**You 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.

⁹**Truly, 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.

¹¹**Faithfulness 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.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-15a

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

R: A reading from 2 Peter, the third chapter.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel:**

Mark 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

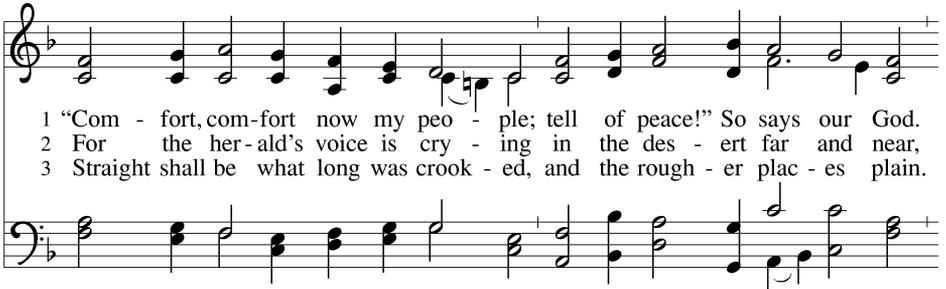
P: ¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

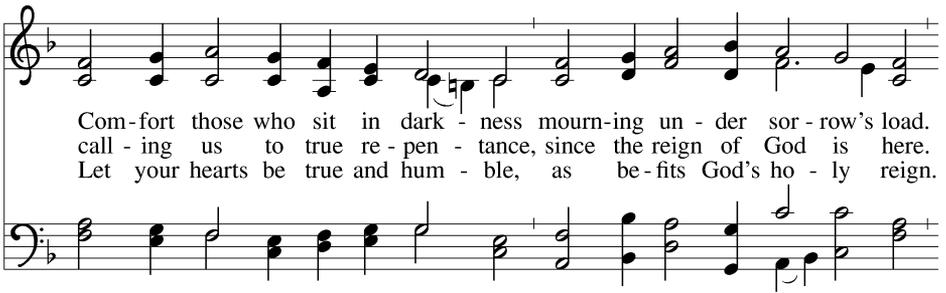
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

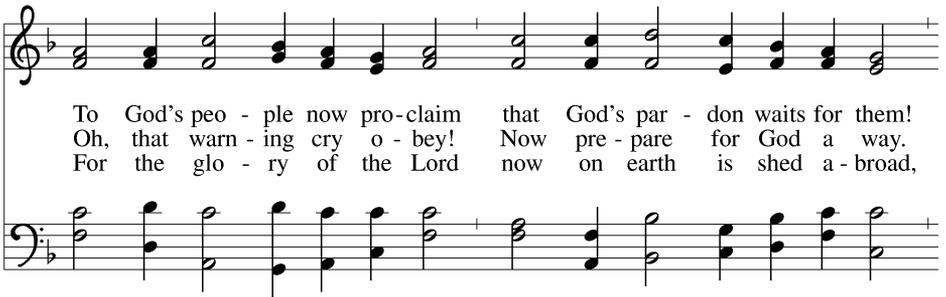
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



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 reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's 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.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

***Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of Intercession**

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

A brief silence.

P: Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace, especially those we name at this time (*pause 10 seconds for those to be named*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

P: Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

C: Amen.

***Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

***Thanksgiving at the Table**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: 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**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution of Communion

***Post Communion Blessing**

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

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
✠ now and forever.

C: Amen.

Special Music: *They That Wait Upon the Lord* **J. Purifoy**

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* **T. Kendall**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB149127.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Song, *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*, Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Song, *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Permission gained through One License #A713224 for printing and streaming. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

AS JOHN THE BAPTIST BORE WITNESS TO YOU, JESUS, may my actions and words proclaim that you are the Light of the world.

BIBLES AND DEVOTIONALS MISSING – Youth Bibles and super large print Bibles and Devotionals are missing from the table in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone knows what happened to them, please call Anida Miarer at 419-637-2922 or tell Pastor Tim. Thank you.

FLCW PRAYER SISTERS FOR 2021 – In the past, we have matched ladies of the church with another as a prayer sister at our December general meeting. Since the meeting has been cancelled, we have decided to do it in a different manner this year for 2021. In the narthex, there will be a basket on the table where the bulletins are placed. If you are interested in having a prayer sister for 2021, please take a **candy cane ornament** from the basket and a **card** to fill in for your prayer sister. ***Place the completed card into the plastic container.*** We will match those cards and you will be notified of your new prayer sister before the new year begins with the information on the card they completed. Please take your ornament and return the completed card by December 20. If you do not make it to church, the basket will be there during the week starting November 29th or you can ask **Barb (419-332-6820)** or us (**Deb Fahle 419-463-3119** or **Yvonne Vogel 419-307-1774**) to do it for you.

FLCW Programming Coordinators

FLCW DECEMBER 15TH GENERAL MEETING AND PROGRAM has been canceled due to the pandemic. Thank you.

FLCW DINNER OUTING FOR DECEMBER has also been canceled because of social distancing necessities. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RETURN YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SURVEYS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR THE COLLECTION PLATE. They are in your December newsletters or you can answer through the email from Pastor Tim. THANK YOU.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Narthex for you to pick up. Please do not begin using them until January 1st. Thank you.

UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES AND 2021 WOMEN'S PROGRAM BOOKLETS are also available in the Narthex for you to take. There have been many changes to the Church Directory, so please take one.

POINSETTIA FLOWER ORDERS Please note that today, Sunday, December 6th, is the last Sunday to place your Christmas Poinsettia Orders. Thank you.

THE 2020 DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY BY GIBSONBURG AREA CHURCHES
Come view this free presentation of the Christmas Story in the safety and comfort of your own vehicle as it comes to life in 9 scenes portrayed by families from the community. You'll drive past each scene slowly as you listen to the beautiful narration of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem for the birth of a son, Jesus, born to save all people from their sin. (The narration is available in all formats to accommodate all vehicles.) Saturday, December 5, and Sunday, December 6 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Location: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (parking lot), 500 S. Brentwood Ave., Gibsonburg.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: It was brought to my attention that some of you are not aware that we are live streaming the worship service in our Fellowship Hall every Sunday during the service for those that do not wish to join us in the Sanctuary, but for whom it may be too cold outside to keep your vehicle running. Please note that masks are still required at all times. Thank you.

ASSISTING TODAY:

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller

Organist: Darla Brown

Special Music: Jadlynne Moyer

Lector: Bill Fox

Acolyte: Ryla Smith

Altar Guild: Annie & Allison Gazdecki,
& Ginger Walker

Counters: Gary Overmyer's Team

