# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship Sunday, December 6, 2020 – Second Sunday in Advent

Prelude - St. Paul's Choir: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence setting by Stephen Cleobury (b. 1948)

254

# GATHERING

# Gathering Hymn - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

We gather in the name of the Father ₱ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the # Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

# Amen.

KYRIE
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

#### Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia. Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you And also with you Let us pray

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.** 

#### WORD

#### 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.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak 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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every 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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get 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!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He 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.

#### Advent Wreath Lighting Hymn (in place of psalm)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Advent 1: verse 1 and 2 Advent 2: verse 1 and 4 Advent 3: verse 1 and 6 Advent 3: verse 1 and 8 Hymn 257

# 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.

<sup>8</sup>Do 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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>But 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.

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

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

#### 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.

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' "<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

#### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day - Comfort, Comfort Now My People

256

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**

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

#### A brief silence.

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.

#### Your mercy is great.

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.

#### Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for . . . (*current local, national, or international issues of peace or justice may be named*). Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

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.

#### Your mercy is great.

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. We pray especially for Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, JoAnn, Leon, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Debbie, Phyllis, Blanche, Leslie, Bob, Ellie, Janet, and those we name before you now, silently or vocally. Hear us, O God.

#### Your mercy is great.

#### Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work (*especially Nicholas of Myra*). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

#### 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.** 

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

MEAL Great Thanksgiving Dialogue 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.

#### Preface

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:

#### **Holy Holy Holy**

# Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and 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.

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

LAMB OF GOD Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# Holy Communion will be available in the church parking lot on Sundays, from <u>11:15 am - 12:00 pm</u>

Please do not leave your car. We will come to you and deliver a wafer and wine or grape juice. It will be served to you in a foam bowl. Please take the elements and distribute among those in your vehicle and then dispose of the cups and bowl when you get home.

# **Prayer after Communion**

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

#### Amen.

#### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.** 

# Sending Hymn - My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Postlude - Savior of the Nations, Come

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by Johann Pachelbel

251

6

#### The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

**Prayer of the Church** (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Phyllis Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Janet Seiz

# **Prayer List Changes** – If you have names to **add**, **or delete at any time** - email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-inlaw of Ted and Diana Dominick), Leonard Anderson, (family friend of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Michelle Meadors, Tony Blackwell (cousin of Pat Casper), Gad Kainer, Peggy Stevens (by John and Linda Foreman), Nancy Randle (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's), Kenneth and Shirley Craig (by Pat Casper), Blackwell and Miller families (by Pat Casper), the Jolly Family (by Marlene Coulter), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Mark Ahrendsen (friend of Marcia and Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield)

"Light a Candle" -- Candles are lit for prayer intentions. To "light a candle for someone" indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolizes that prayer. The candle screen and votive candles are in the Narthex of the church, along with wood tapers to light them with. You are welcome to come, light a candle, and pray. If you come after hours or when no staff is in the building, please put out the candle before you leave. Staff will check during the daytimes when they are there to make sure all are put out.

# **Opportunities to Worship**

We will continue outdoor worship for the first 50 people who come on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We are also broadcasting these services over fm radio channel 87.9 fm with a local transmission station if you wish to stay in your vehicle. We are using **Now the Feast and Celebration** for the outside worship. You will be required to **bring your own chair** and we will guide you to distance the placement of the chairs in the back parking lot near the Memorial Garden and the mobile classroom. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED**. Hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at the entrance to the worship space.

**Holy communion** is being served during this service and available as drive through from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon, weekly, as well.

**We continue to record** Setting One weekly. So those who have enjoyed receiving weekly worship on our Vimeo channel can continue to do so.

We are not able to continue the inside worship with the state's regulation of 10 people max **inside.** So, if there is rain, we will not meet for outside worship. Please continue to watch the vimeo service online.

**Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays** on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info: Topic: **Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays** Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09 Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

#### Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: **Bible Study - Daniel** – You may download the lessons ahead of time by going to the home page of our website (stpaulsdurham.org). Also, the lesson for that Thursday, is usually sent out by E-Parish Notes by Wednesday or Thursday. **Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays** 

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGFhUT09 Meeting ID: 946 532 621 – Password: 402561

**St. Paul's Preschool & PMO:** It's that time of year to re-link your VIC Card. Please consider linking your VIC Card to the preschool so that we may receive a percentage of your sales from Harris Teeter. Our number is **3049** and can be linked at any Harris Teeter or online. Friends and family may link too to support the preschool! We have also created an Amazon Wish List, if you would like to support our outdoor spaces:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1/ref-=cm\_co\_nav\_hz

#### A Multitude of Heavenly Hosts

The angels and creches are set up in displays as a gift for the congregation from the Continuing Conversation Group, Tina Bessias, Morris Casper, Pastor Scott and Vicar Judy. They are from personal, as well as church collections. Curtis Chi has added his talent by taking photos of the display to present online. However, if you can find a way and time please stop in for a moment to do a personal acceptance of this gift.



**Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links** we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

- Sunday 10 am In Person Worship Assistance https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1
- Tasks which can be signed up for include: Assisting Minister, Parking Lot Guides (2), Lector, Set up Help (3), Sound, Ushers (2), and Clean Up Help (3)
- Wednesday Recording Worship <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-assisting</u>
   Tasks include Assisting Minister, Communion on Sunday, and Lector - The recording takes place on Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary
- Drive Through Communion on Sundays <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-drive</u> Tasks include helping with communion (2 persons) on Sundays between 11:15 and noon.

#### Story Circles at Parktown Food Hub

You are invited! You - the person reading this, whomever you are! Please consider joining us for a story circle. In a story circle a small group of 4-6 people talk about their lives in a structured way so everybody gets heard and everybody gets to share. People who have participated so far are uniformly positive about the process - it's great for introverts and extroverts - and the format nudges everything away from politics and toward relationship.

**STORY CIRCLES ARE MOVING TO ZOOM!** In light of the recent increase in COVID cases and our wish to be responsible citizens and do our best to care for our neighbors, we are moving all remaining Story Circles to Zoom. Here are the main things: Days and times are the same; you will receive a link when you sign up on the SignUpGenius (link below). Others who are leading Story Circles online tell us that the circles translate to Zoom remarkably well. If you have been wanting to check us out, this may be your chance! Story Circles from the comfort of your own home!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4DA5AB2CA4F85-come

In peace, joy, and excitement, Pastor Sharon

#### Dates for upcoming circles are:

SUNDAYS (1 pm) - December 6, 13, 20; and January 3, 10 WEDNESDAYS (6:30 pm) - December 9; January 13 THURSDAYS (10 am) - December 17; January 7



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God. the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near, 2 For Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es 3 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, be-fits God's ho - ly as reign. God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them! То Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way. is shed a - broad, For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth 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.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551



Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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#### Advent Wreath Lighting Hymn (in place of psalm)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Advent 1: verse 1 and 2 Advent 2: verse 1 and 4 Advent 3: verse 1 and 6 Advent 3: verse 1 and 8 0 0 come, O come, Em - man u - el, and ran - som cap - tive 1 2 0 come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, to your tribes on as 4 O come, O Branch of Jes free your own from Sa - tan's se, 6 ra - el, that mourns in ile here Is lone - ly ex and nigh: in strength and beau - ty far come and stay; Si nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law ple an - ny; from depths of hell your peo save, tyr Refrain -0 0 un - til the Son of God ap - pear. teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice! in cloud, and maj - es and awe. ty, give them vic - t'ry and o'er the grave. shall come to you, O Em - man u - el Is ra - el. -5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Refrain 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;

Hymn 257

- O Sun of justice, now draw near. Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. Refrain
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

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