

*Second Sunday
Of*

Advent



Sunday December 6, 2020 Second Sunday in Advent

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

In both the Gospel of Matthew and Isaiah, a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era. In each passage, the words “do not be afraid” appear... offering a clue that the messenger—whether prophet or angel—was referencing something that induced fear in the recipient. A new way of being together, of relating and loving takes courage—eschewing the present order of things so that a new and better day can be born.

Lighting the Advent Wreath: I believe

Prayer of the Day

Holy One,
we thank you for the glimpses we catch
of your gift of daring love.
Even in the midst of fear,
of challenge, of struggle—
even when we cannot yet see a better day
when we will act like the human family we are,
ignite the flame of love within us,

**All: that we might glow with its brilliance
from the inside out.**

[Congregation joins the song]

**I believe in love,
I believe in love,
even when... even when...
I don't feel it.**

**I believe in the sun,
I believe in the sun,
even when... even when...
it's not shining.**

Pastor: Help us face this fear of difference
and dare to see what love can do.

Amen.

Children's Time to Shine

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 1-14 (*Common English Bible translation*)

In the days of Ahaz (Jotham's son and grandson of Judah's King Uzziah), Aram's King Rezin and Israel's King Pekah (Remaliah's son) came up to attack Jerusalem, but they couldn't overpower it.

When the house of David was told that Aram had become allies with Ephraim, their hearts and the hearts of their people shook as the trees of a forest shake when there is a wind. But the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the channel of the Upper Pool, by the road to the field where laundry is washed, and say to him, 'Be careful and stay calm. Don't fear, and don't lose heart over these two pieces of smoking torches, over the burning anger of Rezin, Aram, and Remaliah's son. Aram has planned evil against you with Ephraim and Remaliah's son, saying, "Let's march up against Judah, tear it apart, capture it for ourselves, and install Tabeel's son as its king." But the Lord God says: It won't happen; it won't take place. The chief of Aram is Damascus; the chief of Damascus is Rezin (in sixty-five more years Ephraim will be shattered as a nation); the chief of Ephraim is Samaria; and the chief of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you don't believe this, you can't be trusted.'"

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign from the Lord your God. Make it as deep as the grave or as high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I won't ask; I won't test the Lord." Then Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Isn't it enough for you to be tiresome for people that you are also tiresome before my God? Therefore, the Lord will give you a sign. The young woman is pregnant and is about to give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel.

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.

⁸ 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.^[a]

**⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

**¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹²The LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.**

Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25 (*Common English Bible translation*)

A record of the ancestors of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac.

Isaac was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah,
whose mother was Tamar.

Perez was the father of Hezron.

Hezron was the father of Aram.

Aram was the father of Amminadab.

Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.

Nahshon was the father of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab.

Boaz was the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David the king.

David was the father of Solomon,
whose mother had been the wife of Uriah.

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah.

Abijah was the father of Asaph.

Asaph was the father of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoshaphat was the father of Joram.

Joram was the father of Uzziah.

Uzziah was the father of Jotham.

Jotham was the father of Ahaz.

Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh.

Manasseh was the father of Amos.

Amos was the father of Josiah.

Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers.

This was at the time of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel.
Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel.
Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud.
Abiud was the father of Eliakim.
Eliakim was the father of Azor.
Azor was the father of Zadok.
Zadok was the father of Achim.
Achim was the father of Eliud.
Eliud was the father of Eleazar.
Eleazar was the father of Matthan.
Matthan was the father of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary—of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Christ. So there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen generations from the exile to Babylon to the Christ.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. When Mary his mother was engaged to Joseph, before they were married, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband was a righteous man. Because he didn't want to humiliate her, he decided to call off their engagement quietly. As he was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all of this took place so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet would be fulfilled:

*Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son,
And they will call him, Emmanuel.*
(*Emmanuel* means "God with us.")

When Joseph woke up, he did just as an angel from God commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he didn't have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. Joseph called him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord
Thanks be to God!

Message

Hymn of the Day “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” 257 Veni, Emmanuel 88 88 88

Refrain

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

1.O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Ref.*

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. *Ref.*

2.O come, O Wisdom from on high
Embracing all things far and nigh
in strength and beauty come and stay
Teach us your will and guide our way. *Ref.*

6.O come O Dayspring come & cheer
O Sun of justice now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Ref.

3.O come, O come O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times you gave the law
cloud and majesty and awe. *Ref.*

7.O come, O King of nations come
O Cornerstone that binds in one
Refresh the hearts that long for you in
Restore the broken make us new. *Ref.*

4.O come O 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. *Ref.*

8.O come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Ref.*

The Peace Announcements

Special events and weekly opportunities to join us.

Take the POP Candle Challenge. Here is the link: [Candle Challenge - YouTube](#)

Blue Christmas Dec. 21 at 7 PM: This year has brought loss to many of us. Nothing is as it was before. On the longest night, we will gather to commemorate and lift up what has weighed up down. It will be a beautiful time to remember the one who speaks light in every darkness.

Bible study on Wednesday 10 am Live or taped on our facebook page.
New Thirsty Thursday video also on facebook.

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.

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.**

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.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered

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

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

May the creator of the stars of light fill you with hope,
The long expected Savior bless your Advent waiting with love,
And the unexpected Spirit guide your journey through these days.
And the Messenger of the Most High says, "Be not afraid!"

Amen.

Hymn: Introduction

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” 282 Edmund Sears 1810—76; Richard Willis 1819-1900

Carol CMD

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good will to all
From heaven's all gracious King';
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not
the love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease the strife,
and hear the angels sing.

4. And you beneath life's crushing load
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

5. For, lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks for joining us!

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