

DECEMBER 6, 2020 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confessions 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 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 love you with our whole heart and mind; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have ignored the needs of each other and sought our private security and control. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us back to You. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen**

☞ People of God, hear the good news: by God's endless grace, your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to enjoy God's peaceful realm and territory. May you be strengthened in God's love, + comforted by Christ's peace and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

☞ **Amen**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle and Prayer

Opening Hymn: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

(RED ELW HYMN #247, NOT IN GREEN LBW)

Verse 1: Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Verse 2: Come now, O God of love, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Verse 3: Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Verse 4: Come, Hope of unity, make us one body. Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Prayer of the Day:

☞ Stir up in 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, Let it be so.**



Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-9

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

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.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

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.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

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!"

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-12

☞ 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 his 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 will look down from the sky.

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

Special Music:

"Peace Like a River "

Jerome Huselid

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

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

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you who will prepare
your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight,'"

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

Sermon:

Interim Pastor John Keller

Hymn of the Day: COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE

(RED ELW HYMN #256, GREEN LBW HYMN #29)

Verse 1: “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

Verse 2: For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down to humble favor.

Verse 3: Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Apostle’s 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 communions of saints, and forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayers of the Church

(Each petition concludes: God of love, and the response is Hear our prayer)

℟ God of Love,

☩ Hear our prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Interim Journey Prayer

℟ Gracious Shepherd, guide your people as we continue the interim journey. We ask you to strengthen and equip the call committee as they prepare to interview pastoral candidates. Call forth the pastor you desire who can lead Fish Lake Lutheran into the future. Grant us patience and hope as we continue to lovingly serve our Lord Jesus Christ and our neighbor during this transitional period. We ask in the name of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

☩ Amen

Closing Hymn: Hark, the Glad Sound!

(RED ELW HYMN #239, NOT IN GREEN LBW)

VERSE 1: Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.

VERSE 2: He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

VERSE 3: He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

VERSE 4: Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heaven's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

BENEDICTION:

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us in times of trial and challenges, give you reason to rejoice and be glad.

The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior and Spirit be with you today and always.

C Amen

DISMISSAL:

P Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

NEXT WORSHIP SERVICES: Advent Wednesday, 9th at 6:30 pm ONLINE ONLY

Topic: The Angels of Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020 - ONLINE ONLY