SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 5, 2021

9:00 AM

New Song



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Improbable God,
Under the clamor of all the voices that claim our allegiance
call us into the wild and uneven places where your life-giving word is heard.
There, purge and prune and tend our spirits until your love finds its home in our hearts.
Then show us how we might smooth the way of your coming,
for the sake of the world you love.

CHURCH LIFE UPDATE Margaret LaMotte Torrence

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

David, Darla, Devin, and Quinn Gulliver

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the day
when people would beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks,
the day when nations would no longer lift up swords against other nations.

(The Advent candles are lit.)

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
As the Lord has promised, in days to come.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together.
And a little child shall lead them.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

SONGS OF WORSHIP *Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord*
All My Fountains
Kingdom Come

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Holy One,
In the cool flush of morning
we dare to come,
not because we are ready to greet you,
but because our need is so great
and your hour approaches.
Strip away our defenses
and bathe us in your mercy
until we yield our lives in joy.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:1-18

SERMON *"The Word in the Wilderness"* Margaret LaMotte Torrence

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

SONG OF RESPONSE

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

You breathed us into being; you named us as your own;
And when we wandered from you, you grieved our hearts of stone.
You sent to us your prophets, your poets and your priests
Who told us of your mercy, the promised day of peace.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Pour out your breath upon us, and on this table spread,
That we might come to meet you in cup and broken bread.
And bind us to each other that we might live to see
Your grace in blind eyes opened and captives breaking free.

THE 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE MEAL

OUR THANKS

Truly you have met us here;
we have tasted your love, and glimpsed your image reflected in our neighbor's.
Continue to burn in our hearts
until we recognize your coming wherever bread and hearts are broken.
For we pray in the name of Jesus, whose every breath was praise.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.
In patient expectation, we live for that great day
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

SENDING SONG *Here and Now*

BENEDICTION Margaret LaMotte Torrence

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