



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020



### CHURCH LIFE UPDATE

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jim and Bobbie Dean

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.

We light this candle 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.

### PRELUDE

*O Still, Still, Still*      German Carol /arr. Neuen-Rabinowitz  
(The String Quartet)

### SONG OF ADVENT HOPE

*There is a Louder Shout to Come*  
(NewSong Band)

Redman

*There is a louder shout to come,  
There is a sweeter song to hear.  
All the nations with one voice,  
All the people with one fear,  
Bowing down before your throne.  
Every tribe and tongue will be  
All the nations with one voice,  
All the people with one King,  
And what a song we'll sing upon that day!*

#### Chorus

*O what a song we'll sing  
And O what a tune we'll bear;  
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise!  
O what a joy will rise  
And O what a sound we'll make;  
You deserve an anthem of the highest praise!*

*Even now upon the earth  
There's a glimpse of all to come—  
Many people with one voice,  
Harmony of many tongues.  
We will all confess your name;  
You will be our only praise.  
All the nations with one voice,  
All the people with one God,  
And what a song we'll sing upon that day!*

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

John Matta

Holy God,  
We gather as your people, moved by  
the beauty of this season,  
the memories that fill our hearts,  
the need that is etched on our neighbor's face,  
the fathomless gift of your love.

Forgive our half-hearted incarnations of that love.  
Come to us now, until we  
trust you more than the governors of this world,  
receive the witness of unlikely messengers,  
amaze our neighbors with unsettling news,  
and tremble with a joy that must be shared.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

## **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

Carrie Mills

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

John Matta, Steven Phillips, Margaret LaMotte Torrence

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

## **SERMON**

*"The Word in the Wilderness"*

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*From Confession of 1967*

Steven Phillips

To be reconciled to God  
is to be sent into the world  
as God's reconciling community.

This community, the church universal,  
is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation  
and shares God's labor of healing the enmities  
that separate people from God and from each other.

Christ has called the church to this mission  
and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The church maintains continuity with the apostles  
and with Israel  
by faithful obedience to his call.

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

*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.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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.*

Therefore, we praise you,  
joining our voices with choirs of angels  
and with all the faithful of every time and place  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

*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.*

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

*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.*

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Gracious God,  
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, we pray,  
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

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*  
(NewSong Band)

American Folk Carol

*Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

*While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy Light. (Chorus)*

*The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! Above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Chorus)*

*Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn! (Chorus)*

## BENEDICTION

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

## POSTLUDE

*God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen/Carol of the Bells*  
(The String Quartet)

arr. Neuen-Rabinowitz