

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Deer Isle Maine

Our **Mission** is to **love, praise**, **welcome,** and **serve**:
· to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
· to **praise** God in all things,
· to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
· to **serve** the needs of one another and of those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Pastor Elaine Hewes, preaching
Connie Mayo, Music Director

Morning Prayer
Second Sunday in Advent
December 6, 2020

Prelude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* J. S. Bach

A brief silence

Leader: In this season of Advent, we, like the watchman, strain to glimpse the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the manifestations of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

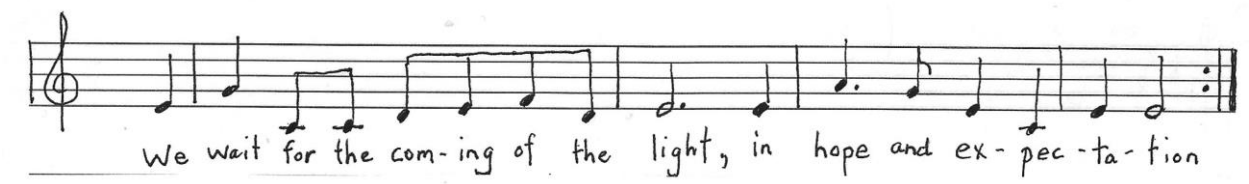
Congregation: **Lord, by your presence,**
light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray, may we be always ready to encounter the Lord who is already and always with us. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle

Leader: We light this candle for all God's prophets, confronting injustice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace.

Congregation: **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

All are invited to light their Advent candle at home.



Sing three times

Confession of Sin

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Congregation: **Most Holy God,**
in the midst of this season of new life, we confess:
We have resisted the light of your love;
we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and
we have not treasured the gifts of others around us.
We stand in need of your love.
Holy Father, make us holy.
Holy Jesus, make us holy.
Holy Spirit, make us holy.
Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

Leader: May God forgive us and help us to continue the journey.
As a woman is delivered from the pain of her labor to the joy of cradling her child,
may we be delivered into God's grace.

Congregation: **Amen.**

Opening Hymn 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion (in back of the bulletin)*

The Invitatory

Leader: Our God and Savior now draws near:
Congregation: **O come, let us worship.**
Leader: Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
Congregation: **as it was in the beginning, is now,**
and shall be for ever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-20

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!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
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.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?
Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as his counselor has instructed him?
Whom did he consult for his enlightenment, and who taught him the path of justice?
Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?
Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales;
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust. Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,
nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering.
All the nations are as nothing before him;
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?
An idol? —A workman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold,
and casts for it silver chains. As a gift one chooses mulberry wood—wood that will not rot—
then seeks out a skilled artisan to set up an image that will not topple.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 85
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. Selah
You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

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

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Leader: The Gospel according to Mark
Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ**
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."
Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon Pastor Elaine Hewes

A brief silence

Affirmation

We believe in God, Creator of all:
The two-legged, the four-legged,
the winged ones, and those that crawl upon the earth and swim in the waters.
We believe in God, One Who Walked with Us:
Our Brother Jesus born in humility,
who lived and died for us and
who will come again to bring us to glory.
We believe in God, Spirit with Us:
Ever present and ever guiding, upholding us and
showing us the principles to live by.
We hear God's voice through the prophets.

Creator, One Who Walked with Us, Spirit with Us, Holy One:
We are named in the waters of baptism as your own,
all of us related, all of us your children.
We watch for signs of your homecoming
and thank you for this sacred circle of life. Amen.

Recognition of birthdays, anniversaries and other significant remembrances in December

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be always with you,
Congregation: **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the peace

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.
Congregation: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us pray.

Advent Prayer based on the Lord's Prayer

Emmanuel, God with us—holy be your name.
In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come.
Bread of life, feed us with your truth.
For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.
Protect us from dangers and temptations we face each day.
You come to us now, and You will come to us again in glory,
when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you
blessing, honor and glory forever! Amen.

The Collect of the Day
Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Congregation: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: O Holy One, in this season of Advent we wait and pray that you will fill our hearts with joyful anticipation of your coming. May our waiting help prepare the way of the Lord.

Creator of the world you are the potter and we are the clay. Shape our spirits by your love that especially in this season of waiting we may discern your call to be peacemakers and justice seekers.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of compassion in these difficult times of crisis in our world our waiting is often filled with fear and anxiety. We seek your help and guidance as we pray for ourselves and all

those who are suffering from anxiety or any form of physical or mental illness. We pray for our willingness to journey together to find common ground.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: God of hope our waiting expresses a deep longing for a better world. We pray for courage and persistence during this season of Advent, to work for the day when our paths will be made straight and our valleys will be filled in, when our nation and its leaders will embrace the common good for all humanity and for all of creation.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Light of the World we pray that as we wait for the fulfillment of your Incarnation we may be bearers of your light to others in our community, our neighbors, who are in need of comfort, connection, hope or simply basic necessities of food, health care, housing, and meaningful work.
Congregation: **May we prepare the way of the Lord.**

Leader: Please offer your own prayers at this time

All are invited to add their own prayers here.

Congregation: **God of hope, you call us from our exile with the good news of restoration;**
you build a highway through the wilderness;
you come to us to bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,
made known in Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn 75 *There's a voice in the wilderness crying (in back of the bulletin)*

Postlude: *Savior of the nations, come* J. S. Bach

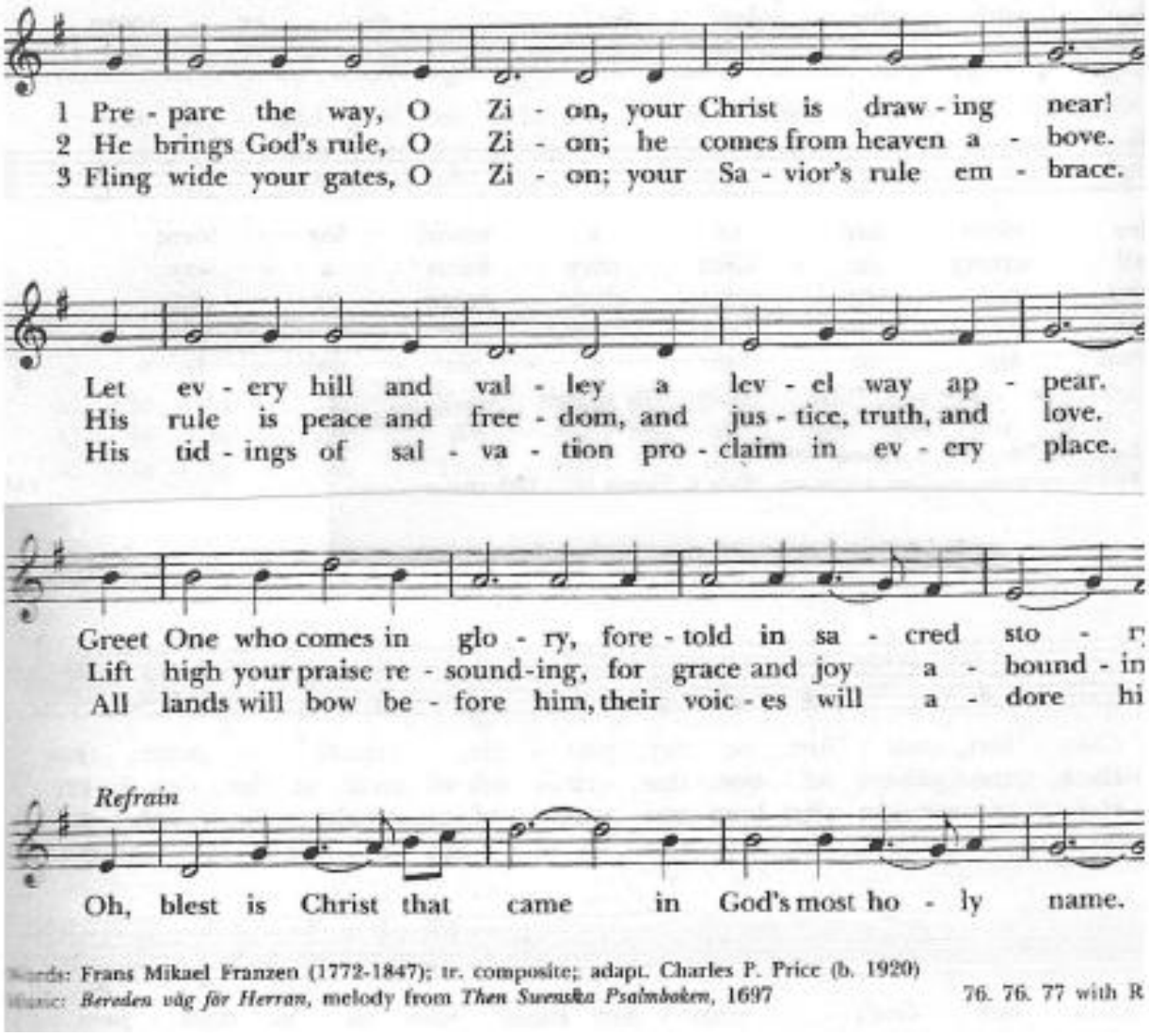
Announcements

Dismissal
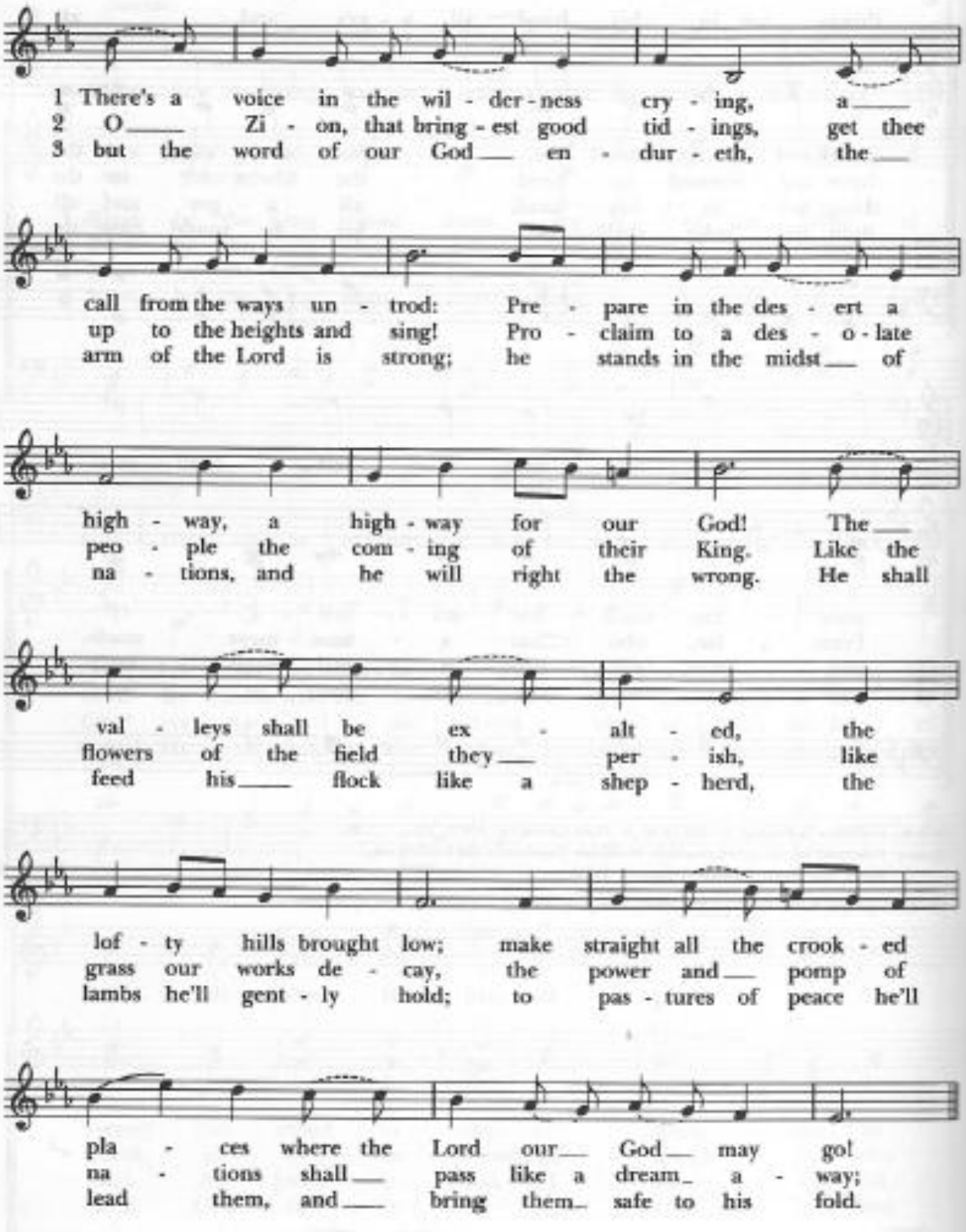
You are invited to stay for Virtual Coffee Hour

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Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.
Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (b. 1904)