



**Ante-Communion**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Officiant:** Our King and Savior draws night.

**People:** O come let us adore him.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Officiant:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

**THE CANDLES OF ADVENT**

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.

Our peace is found in God and in his Son, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist and all the prophets remind us that to receive peace we must be prepared for it. We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

Light the First and Second Candles.

Let us pray:

O God of Peace, Emmanuel, we pray you to send your light into hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing. Work in our hearts and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings - the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you and the outer peace which will come when he returns to judge the world. Bless our worship that it may be pleasing unto you, and bless us that we may prove to be your faithful servants. *Amen.*

**Choir Response:** Advent is a time of peace, of waiting for the light.  
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.  
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.  
Light a candle, for the promised One.

**Officiant:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.  
**Officiant:** Let us pray.

## COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Officiant:** 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. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

### The First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

**Reader:** 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 for ever. 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.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

### The Psalm: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

**Reader:** You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, \*  
**People:** you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**Reader:** You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
**People:** and blotted out all their sins.

**Reader:** I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, \*  
**People:** for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**Reader:** Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
**People:** that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Reader:** Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
**People:** righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Reader:** Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
**People:** and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**Reader:** The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
**People:** and our land will yield its increase.

**Reader:** Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
**People:** and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

**The Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

**Reader:** Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.  
**People:** Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM: "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry" Hymn 76**

**Susan Hollinger**

**Officiant:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Officiant:** 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."

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard**

**NICENE CREED**

**Officiant and People:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will

come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

## THE PRAYERS

### Prayers of the People, Form III

**Reader:** Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

**People:** That we all may be one.

**Reader:** Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**People:** That your Name may be glorified by all people.

**Reader:** We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**People:** That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

**Reader:** We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**People:** That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

**Reader:** Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**People:** That our works may find favor in your sight.

**Reader:** Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**People:** That they may be delivered from their distress.

**Reader:** Give to the departed eternal rest;

**People:** Let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Reader:** We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**People:** May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

**Reader:** Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

**(Moment of Silence)**

### Prayers for those on Our Prayer List

#### Prayer for the Church Universal

**Officiant and People:** Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

#### Prayer for the Church Of Our Redeemer

**Officiant and People:** Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes

understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### CONFESSION OF SIN

**Officiant:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Officiant and People:** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

**Officiant:** Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Officiant and People:** 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### THE BLESSING

**Officiant:** Remember that life is short and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

**People:** *Amen.*

### DISMISSAL

**Officiant:** Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at [msflip925@aol.com](mailto:msflip925@aol.com). You may also contact the office by email [redemeraldie@gmail.com](mailto:redemeraldie@gmail.com) or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email [l.packard@verizon.net](mailto:l.packard@verizon.net) or phone (703) 425-8315.

### “For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and  
Those Who Care for Them  
Tom, Resha & Bennett  
Tom's Co-Workers  
Don & Chris  
Bob Stewart  
Alan White  
The Kwelberg Family  
The McKim Family  
Fred & Ginny Warren  
Mary Murray  
TJ Hill  
Russell & Lula  
John Henry Dale & Patricia Engel  
Bishop Susan Goff  
Dennis Gunther  
Bob Sabath  
The Mikoly Family  
Eunice Spence

Tom Motheral  
Frank Archibald  
Kathy  
Candi & Taylor  
The Fairweather Family  
Chris  
Mike  
Tyler Gore  
Gwenivere Black  
Kevin Gile  
Barbara Pavone  
Nettie Stevens  
Evan Hansen  
The Rollins Family  
Liam Ferguson  
The Pisciotta Family  
Church of Our Redeemer  
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

#### Serving Our Country

Amity Hess  
All First Responders  
All Front Line Workers  
All Hospitals and Emergency Rooms Workers

#### Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.  
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment  
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*