



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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2nd Sunday of Advent December 6, 2020
Worship 11:00 A.M.

Presiding Minister
Musician

Rev. Diana Edis
Sheila Seidemann

Our worship will be live streamed on our Facebook page: [St. Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranPrinceRupert). You do not have to have a Facebook account to access that worship. You may also access this worship service on our You Tube channel as soon as it is uploaded at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMY5N1JmPn41_R5_Xahok_w?view_as=subscriber

Welcome to Worship with St. Paul's Lutheran Church. John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Weekly Prayer Petitions

Local: Native Revival Pentecostal Church

Synod Parishes: Grace Lutheran Church in Burnaby – Rev. Nathan Fong
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Smithers

Anglican/Lutheran Joint Prayers: The Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls & staff of the Primate's Office of the Anglican Church of Canada/ National Bishop: Bishop Susan Johnson & the national staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Information

We are trying something new and exciting today! Our worship service will be live streamed as usual but we will be sharing the screen and worship duties with Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in

Prince George! Pastor Fleming Blishen has the technology and the wisdom to put this together for us and for that we are grateful. You will still access the worship service as you have been recently and there will still be communion and all the regular aspects of church just with a bit more variety of voice. For those of you who would be interested and are a bit more technologically adept there is the opportunity to join the worship service by Zoom. The zoom option allows you to see other people who are participating. We would ask that you keep yourself muted the whole time. My hope is that over time as we get used to using zoom there will be some options for participation but that's down the road. For those of you who want to try here is the invite to zoom.

Topic: Advent 2 Worship

Time: Dec 3, 2020 10:45 AM Vancouver

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81563803936>

Meeting ID: 815 6380 3936

Discipleship Opportunities

1. The Pastor will be Public by Zoom every Wednesday from 9:30 - 11:30AM. You may call in from your home or cell phone to 1-778-907-2071 without the need for a computer or you can join by computer, tablet, or smart phone by either clicking the link below or by typing it into your browser.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87222984486?pwd=OHFicWZySkR1dHNpekIqMzU4RIJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 2298 4486

Password: 263906

2. We have initiated a task force to plan and implement a safe return to in-person worship. Our hope to return to the building for the Advent season has been dashed with the recent known cases in Prince Rupert; for the foreseeable future we remain online only.

3. A letter has been sent to all regular attendants of St. Paul's with information about our new conference table and questioning what might be done with the pool/ping pong table in our upstairs conference area. Please take the time to read through the letter and respond with your thoughts on how we should move forward with this issue. You may contact by phone, email, Facebook message, or regular mail with your response.

4. We are going caroling! I know that is kinda strange in this time of Covid-19 but we have been asked by the staff of Acropolis Manor if we would share the gift of song with their residents. We will not enter the facility! We will be standing outside on the covered patios with lots of space between each other and the residents. Our plan is to meet there at 10:00 AM and staff will guide us to the places we will sing. We will be singing at least twice, maybe three times if we can also sing for the folks at the Summit.

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** Our Bible readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version, covered under AF license number SB157842.*

Announcements

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.

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L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Pg. 213

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
 Lord, have mer - cy:

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
 Christ, have mer - cy:

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
 Lord, have mer - cy:

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle

No. 240 (vs 1, vs 2 x 3)



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

Our first reading is from Isaiah, beginning at the 40th chapter

Isaiah 40:1-11

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.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Our second reading is from 2 Peter 3:8-15a beginning at the 3rd chapter

2 Peter 3:8-15a

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.

L: The word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Pg. 216

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Mark, beginning at the 1st chapter

Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you, O Lord

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."

L: The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Fleming Blishen



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé
 Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

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Confession of Faith

Apostles' 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 power of 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 communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen

Prayers of Intercession: (petition end: Hear us, O God.
(petition response: **Your mercy is great.**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

*Offerings may be mailed to the church or placed in our mailbox. You can send e-transfers to
offering2stpauls@citywest.ca. You may also give electronically through CanadaHelps.*

We can be found there at St.Paul's Lutheran, Prince Rupert.

Offering Prayer

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

We enter into a time of communion. All people are invited to join in God's meal, however you may choose whether or not to participate. If you hear the call of the Holy Spirit inviting you, please respond. If you would like to learn more about communion you may call the church and speak with the pastor about its significance. You may prepare bread and wine or juice in advance of communion. You may wish to set up a small home altar for this purpose, using: a cross, a candle, an image of Christ (called an icon), and the bread and beverage if you feel so called. The pastor will have a half loaf, symbolizing that the other half of that loaf is present in front of you in your various abiding places. When the bread and beverage are offered by the pastor and you eat and drink you may respond, "Amen." Members of the same household are encouraged to serve one another.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
 ...be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit across time and space, let us pray as Jesus taught us. Using whatever version of that prayer comforts you, we pray...

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.**

L: If the Holy Spirit calls you to this feast of bread and wine or juice, I invite you to receive that which has been prepared, each in our own places, but gathered together around the table of God. Although we are separated at this time by physical distance, we are united, made whole in the body of our Lord. There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Communion is offered

L: This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C: Amen

L: This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: Amen

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour strengthen you to eternal life.

C: Amen

L: Let us pray,

Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy Spirit to

be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

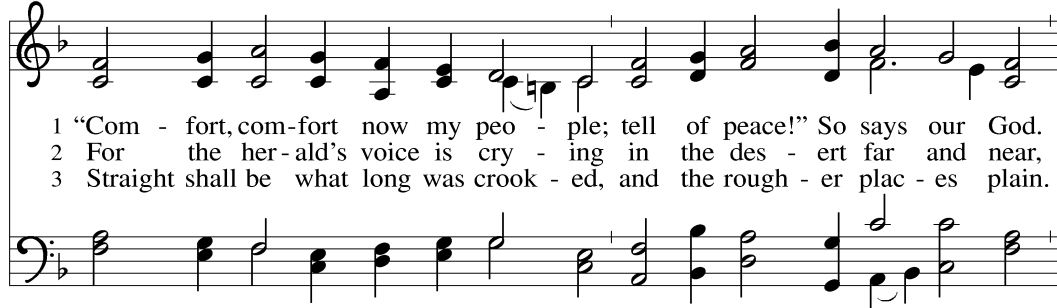
The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Now My people

No. 256



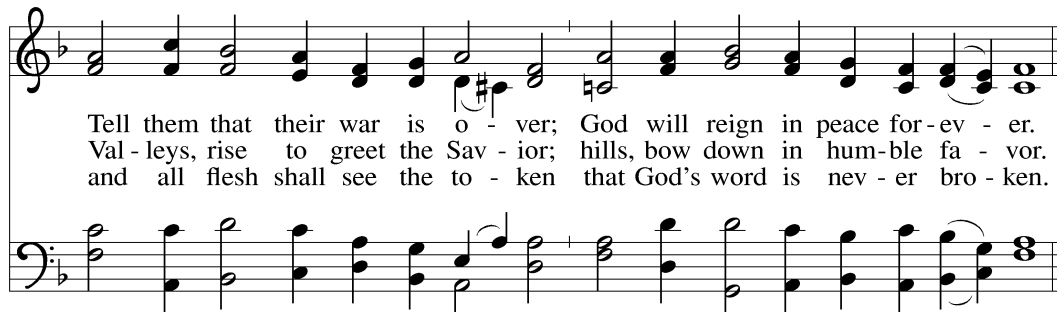
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.