

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparation for Worship

Psalm 85:1-7

*Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people; You have covered all their sin. Selah
You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.
Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.
Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.*

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Welcome

Greetings in the name of the coming King! In Isaiah 40 God's word of judgment and punishment has been fulfilled, so now Israel is ready to hear news of comfort and joy. I once heard Rev. Bob Noble talk about the origin of the word "comfort." He said it came from the Latin *confortare*, meaning "to strengthen." *Com*, which means "with" combined with the Latin word *fortis*, which means "strong," is literally *with strength*. May this Communion service that we share today covey the comfort of God to each of you, so that we may live *with strength*. Thanks for joining us.

-Pastor Karl

Lighting of the Advent Candles and Unison Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the promise of the Messiah who came to be the light of the world. Help us prepare our hearts to receive him. Bless our worship as we gather this day. Help us to hear and do your Word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

Hymn of Praise #179

"Joy to the World!"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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Prayer of Confession

While we ask, dear Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord for not praying, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, Lord God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of your glory. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness

Congregational Response #185

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King. Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;**

with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

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Time with the Children (Kids spell Love T-I-M-E)

Prayers of the People & 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.

Prayer Response #177

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.
Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

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Dedication of Tithes and Offerings

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." 9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his

flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. (NIV)

Sermon

"Isaiah's Comforting God"

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

God's Invitation and Promises

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Communion

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. All glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn #152

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
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Benediction

Thank you for worshiping with us!

