THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 6th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



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.

- ✞ Officiant & Preacher – The Reverend Diane Burkland
- ✞ Liturgists – TBD

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!" We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#264 – Prepare the Royal Highway

Prayer of the Day - Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 1 - 11



1 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 2 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.

3 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make
straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 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. 5 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall 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 flesh is grass; their constancy is
like the flower of the field.

[7] The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. [8] The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever. [9] Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" [10] See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. [11] 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. The Word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God!**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Capelli Family

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets call all people to prepare the Lord's way for the kingdom of heaven is near. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit, that we may be a light shining in the darkness welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen!**

The Second Advent Candle is lighted!

ADVENT HYMN – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 - 13



[1] You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

[2] **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

[8] I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

[9] **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

[10] Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

[11] **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

[12] The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

[13] **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads to the coming King.
Bow before Him and adore Him, Sing,
To His majesty let your praises be
Pure and Holy giving glory to the King of Kings.

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HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Mark 1: 1 - 8; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one
crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' " 4 so John
the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.

5 And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were
baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with
camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He
proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to
stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will
baptize you with the Holy Spirit." The Gospel of the Lord…**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – The Reverend Diane Burkland

***HYMN*: ELW#256 Comfort, Comfort Now My People**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✞ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Prepare your church for the mystery of Christ's incarnation. Strengthen your people with the promises made known in word and sacrament, in our common life, and in service with our neighbors. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your glory in the goodness and wonder of your creation. Inspire renewed commitments by individuals, cities, countries, and the global community to practices and policies that safeguard the planet. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Defend all who work for peace and cooperation among towns and cities, states and nations. Point us toward new solutions to long-standing challenges in our communities, and empower us and our leaders to act with clarity and wisdom. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Speak tenderly to all who cry out in hunger, pain, or distress. Bring comfort and connection to all who are hospitalized, homebound, or living in nursing homes. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*. Encourage those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Stir up our commitment to your justice, especially for the most vulnerable communities among us. Transform the stories, structures, and attitudes that maintain the inequities among us. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Guide our congregation in our search for a shepherd to lead Zion with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. God, in your mercy, **recieve our prayer.**

We praise you for the wisdom of all the faithful saints. Guard our waking and our sleeping, until with all the faithful departed, we find our rest in you.
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth and provides for all, signs of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Receive these offerings from your bounty and bless them to be used for your glory as we prepare for the birth of your son, Jesus. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Let us pray: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is your Son, our Lord. You sent him into this world to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing human suffering, dying an unjust death. We rejoice that in his dying and rising again, you set before us the sure promise of a new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host.

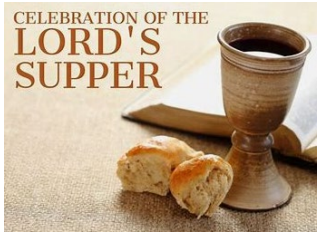
Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

And hear us as we humbly pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray:

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, forever and ever. Amen.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same manner also he took the cup, blessed it and said," This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me."



The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. The gifts of God for the people of God. May we partake with thanks.

Invitation to Communion – The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMNS

***1*: Jesus, Name above all Names**	**O' Come Let Us Adore Him**
Jesus, name above all names Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer, Living Word	O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him O come, let us adore Him Christ the Lord.
Jesus, name above all names Beautiful Saviour, Glorious Lord Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer, Living Word	For He alone is worthy For He alone is worthy For He alone is worthy Christ the Lord

COMMUNION HYMN 3: I love You Lord

I love You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear.

I Praise You, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship You
O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, My King, in what You hear,
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound
In Your ear.

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Closing Prayer - Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing - God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#253 – He Came Down

Dismissal: Go in peace. Bring good news the brokenhearted. **Thanks be to God.**

Church of the Light

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