

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Introit *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

One: If life was a home, then we would pray:

All: May love be our foundation.

May God be the cornerstone.

One: May the Spirit be the windows—ushering light in.

All: And may hope be the walls—holding us together.

One: In this time of worship, let us work toward building that home together.

All: We may not know the path ahead, but God is here, even now.

One: Let us give thanks for a foundation of love.

All: Let us worship Holy God.

Lighting the Advent Candles-- Cheri Gomez and Katie Burlew

Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (all)* HYFRYDOL

Call to Confession

God calls us to rest in grace, to let down our guard and be truthful about ourselves and the world around us. When we step back and look with fresh eyes, we can see the Spirit moving, inviting us to a new way of life. With all the people of God, let us confess our sin and struggles before God, making room for healing. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**Holy God, When John was born,
Zechariah leaned down and whispered
words of love into his ear.**

**You speak daily of your love for us,
yet we do not listen.**

We doubt that we could possibly be enough.

**We hustle for our self-worth
and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection.**

We deflect words of praise.

We hide behind shiny first impressions.

**Forgive us.
Trusting our worth is the hardest job.
Open our ears as you open our hearts,
so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness
you have laid for us.
In Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved of God, no matter where we are, no matter what we do, God continues to say to us: “You are loved; you are forgiven.” That is the foundation of our lives of faith. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Know and believe this good news:

All: By the grace of Jesus, we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God’s Word

O God whose words bring life, we are easily distracted. Sometimes, we take the easy way out when it comes to hope. So today we ask for your help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Open our ears. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Through Christ we pray, amen.

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

Look, I am sending my messenger who will clear the path before me;
suddenly the LORD whom you are seeking will come to his temple.
The messenger of the covenant in whom you take delight is coming,
says the LORD of heavenly forces.

²Who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can withstand his appearance?

He is like the refiner’s fire or the cleaner’s soap.

³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver.

He will purify the Levites
and refine them like gold and silver.

They will belong to the LORD,
presenting a righteous offering.

⁴The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD
as in ancient days and in former years.

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Anthem *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

GENEVA 42 arr. John L. Bell

Second Reading Luke 1:57-80

⁵⁷ When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father's name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, "No, his name will be John."

⁶¹ They said to her, "None of your relatives have that name." ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.

⁶³ After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, "His name is John." ⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.

⁶⁵ All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. ⁶⁶ All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, "What then will this child be?" Indeed, the Lord's power was with him.

⁶⁷ John's father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

⁶⁸ "Bless the Lord God of Israel

because he has come to help and has delivered his people.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house,

⁷⁰ just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago.

⁷¹ He has brought salvation from our enemies

and from the power of all those who hate us.

⁷² He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³ the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham.

He has granted ⁷⁴ that we would be rescued

from the power of our enemies

so that we could serve him without fear,

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes,

for as long as we live.

⁷⁶ You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to be saved

through the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸ Because of our God's deep compassion,

the dawn from heaven will break upon us,

⁷⁹ to give light to those who are sitting in darkness

and in the shadow of death,
to guide us on the path of peace.”

⁸⁰The child grew up, becoming strong in character. He was in the wilderness until he began his public ministry to Israel.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn 109

Blest Be the God of Israel (all)

MERLE'S TUNE

Affirmation of Faith

Church Creed

Sharing our Prayers

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you!

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Feast

Prayer after Communion

Hymn 105

People, Look East (vrs. 1, 4, 5)

BESANCON

Giving Back to God's Kingdom

*May our gifts be used to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home
God has envisioned for us—a home of peace, built on the foundation of love.*

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Charge & Benediction

Blessing

HYMN 791 *For You, My God, I Wait (vrs. 1)* **SPRINGTIME**

Postlude

Portions of today's liturgy adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art, LLC | sanctifiedart.org