

PEACE PEACE PEACE PEACE
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Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2020

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 6, 2020
The Second Sunday of Advent

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The service will be posted on the church's Facebook page, [on YouTube](#), and will be linked to the MPC website, www.mpchurch.net. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome Rev. Ben Shaw as our new pastor!
- Elder of the Month: Pam Koester, 322-8810
- Deacon of the Month: Sue Poulos, 376-1623

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make God's way clear. Lift up every valley; lower every mountain. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed." Let us worship God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We light the Advent candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Psalm 96

let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

We light this candle in hope.

(Light the first candle)

The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us;

Psalm 80

God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

We light this candle in peace.

(Light the second candle)

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Psalm 85

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.

Psalm 97

Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.

HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

GTG 102, v. 1,2

*Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.*

*From God's heart the Savior speeds;
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command;
back to reign at God's right hand.*

PRAYER

Loving God, you sent your prophet John to prepare your way among us, to call us to repentance, and make our pathways straight. Strengthen us to live lives of steadfast love and faithfulness as we await the Messiah's return, that all may see your reign of peace through your just and gracious rule. **Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

2 Peter 3:9b

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. Amen.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.*

*We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to speak peace, that the good news of this age may be proclaimed through your word, which stands forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

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.

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Christmas Communion Song

SECOND READING

Mark 1:1-8

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.”

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Advent Affirmation of Faith, from Nathan Nettleton

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by John the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

The SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Great Deliverer...to come again from Heaven.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

So with gratitude...great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

All glory and honor...**Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus