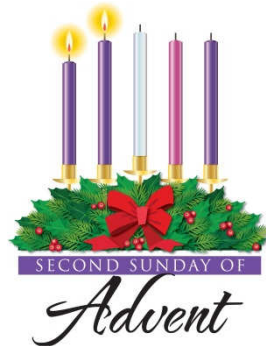


The Service for the Lord's Day



Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Assemble in God's Name

We joyfully welcome you to worship this morning!
All are invited to use the Prayer and Prelude as a time of silent preparation.

Prayer of Reflection

by John Birch (adapted)

As streets fill with shoppers
 bright lights and tempting offers
 Christmas songs and children's laughter
You lead us along a different path
 to a desert river and a Prophetic voice
 a call to repentance
 a call to service
 a call to immerse ourselves
 in living water that will never run dry
 a call to prepare a way in our own lives
 for the Savior of the world to enter in
 to know the touch of tender mercy
 and rest in your forgiving love
For your faithful prophets
 and your Living Word
We give you thanks.

Prelude

Aria

Cynthia Dobrinski (b. 1950)

Welcome

Rev. Carter

**Call to Worship*

Rev. Strom

Leader: Listen! The prophets call across the ages:
 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"
People: We hear and respond!
 We rise up to prepare for love coming down!
Leader: We cry out together in the wilderness:

People: "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Leader: *We come to be part of the light—*

People: the light that shines in the darkness.

**Hymn #106*

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Bereden Vag For Herran

**Invitation to Confess*

**Prayer of Confession*

Cleansing God,

Although we've tried to cover them up,

you see our poor choices

and destructive habits just the same.

You invite us to turn around;

to see the world differently;

to look for your kingdom within and around us.

We hear that voice calling out, "Repent!"

Merciful One, clear a place within us,

that something new might be born in us this Advent;

something that will lead us back to the way of love

you have given us in Jesus Christ—Love Incarnate.

- silent reflection and confession.-

**Assurance of Grace*

Leader: "Comfort, O Comfort my people, says your God."

The Lord forgives and blesses you.

People: **In Jesus Christ, grace is ours!**

Let us rejoice and sing as we prepare the way for love!

**Response to Grace* "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verse 3)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

**Passing of the Peace*

Leader: *In steadfast hope, let us prepare the way for the one named,*

"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace." May the peace of our coming Lord be with you all.

People: **And also with you!**

- All are invited to share the "peace" of Christ with one another -

- Children are invited to come forward -

Children's Message (10:00 a.m.)

Jeness Hall

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader: When all seemed bleak and hope seemed lost,
Isaiah the Prophet reassured God's people, saying,
"God loves you, and is coming to you!"

People: Let us prepare the way for Love Incarnate!

Leader: Let us lift every valley and flatten every mountain.

People: Let us remove every barrier as we prepare the way for
love to reach not just some but each and all.

Leader: O God, we yearn for your kingdom in which all know your love—
a kingdom that values the last and the least,
where the hungry are fed first and the excluded are embraced.

People: We wait with your hope as we watch for your love.

-the candle is lit -

Leader: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!
People: Come, Lord Jesus!

Congregational Response He Came Down

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore!

- Children through Middle School are invited to the Education Wing -

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Elder Carol Openhym

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Pew Bible p. 667, O.T.)

Leader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word;

People: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Lead Me, Lord

S.S. Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness,
Make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Scripture Reading

Mark 1: 1-8 (Pew Bible p. 34, N.T.)

Leader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Prophetic Preparations"

Respond in Thanks & Faith

**Hymn #87* (10:00)

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Genevan 42

Service of Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant

Presentation

Profession of Faith

Constitutional Questions

**Communal Questions*

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

People: I believe in God the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
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.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Prayer of Blessing

Welcome

Hymn #302

“All Are Welcome” (verses 1, 5)

Two Oaks

Call to Commitment

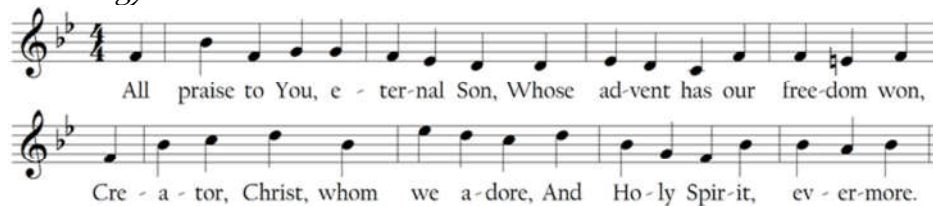
Offertory

Canticle of Joy

Jodie Acker

**Doxology*

Tallis’ Canon



All praise to You, e - ter-nal Son, Whose ad-vent has our free-dom won,
Cre - a - tor, Christ, whom we a-dore, And Ho - ly Spir-it, ev - er-more.

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**Prayer of Dedication*

Leader: God, you have been so good to us. You’ve filled our hearts with love,
and bless us with opportunities to share it!

People: We celebrate this opportunity to give, O God, dedicating
our renewed commitment to your way of love.

**Hymn #82*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hyfrydol

**Benediction*

Postlude

Festive Fanfare

Arnold Sherman

*Congregation standing, as able.

**Large print bulletins & hymnals and hearing assistance devices are available;
please ask a deacon (with a red nametag) for assistance.