

ADVENT THEME: A NEW WORLD

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Shepherds of the Mountains

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

* Let us rise in body or spirit.

Introit

Oh Come to Us, Abide with us, Our Lord, Emmanuel

Call to Advent

Claire Bouma, liturgist

Prepare a way for the Holy One,

Through deserts of despair build a highway for our God.

Let us hear what God will speak,

Encouraging words for an anxious people.

Comfort, comfort, my people.

The days of sorrow are ending.

Let us hear what God will speak,

Tender words for a burdened people.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

Righteousness and peace will kiss.

Let us hear what God will speak,

Words of vision for a weary people.

Come, let us worship!



*Invocation

O Holy One, you are a tender shepherd, architect of the Way, beguiling hope of all who go looking for you. Surprise us here with comfort, challenge, vision—whatever we may need in this moment to recognize you and follow you into the future—a new world of peace. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Beloved. Amen.

*Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Conversation with the Children

Lighting of the Advent Candle

After a year of pain and loss, we are weary. We seek comfort. And so we light this candle, a candle of peace. May it burn through these weeks as a beacon, guiding us to your presence in our midst. Let its glow warm our lives and remind us of your tender care. God be with us, in this Light of Peace.

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8

For the Word of God in scripture, For the Word of God among us, For the Word of God within us, Thanks be to God.

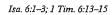
Sermon

A New World of Peace

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

*Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



From the Liturgy of St. James, 4th centu Transl. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; c



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*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Katie Miller

The year has been riddled with crisis and loss. And it has exposed historic inequities and longstanding systemic injustices. In this moment you, Dear God, call to examine our hearts. We seek forgiveness for what we have done to contribute to the pain and injustice. We also ask your forgiveness for what have we left undone. Make us your instruments of peace, as we envision a new and better world. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Comfort, comfort, my people, says the God of Justice and Compassion. You are forgiven your sin and showered with grace to change your life. Let us join together to do the work of the One who is to come—a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offertory

Carol of the Bells

Claire Bouma, Lyn Bouma, Stephen Bouma, Gage Sutherland

*Hymn of Dedication

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below. Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God whom we adore. Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*Offertory Prayer

Faithful One, accept us. We give ourselves to you. Magnify us as the living presence of Christ in the world. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks and praise to God.

We give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all. We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all. We give thanks that you invite us to rejoice, enough for all. Take us deeper into the mystery of your abundant life: a world healed and renewed; all nature and all people at peace. And now we join our voices with those of all created beings in Heaven, and on Earth singing:

Holy, Holy, God, you are holy. Ruler of the sea and sky. Angel hosts above adore you. Earth sings out its endless cry: "Hail, hosanna in the highest!"

"Peace on earth," the heav'ns reply.

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

The Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Recessional Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Edmund Sears, a Unitarian minister who served a number of congregations in the Boston area, wrote this Christmas hymn emphasizing the social implications of the Gospel for his congregation at Wayland, Massachusetts.

Tune: CAROL C.M.D. Richard S. Willis. 1850

*Benediction

You are sent into the world renewed with a vision for peace, Encouraged and empowered to do the work. God's new world is coming.

Benediction Response

Postlude

Consolation

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand, and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment, all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements December 6, 2020

Prayers: Bud Cassiday, recovering from surgery; the Acker, Blazek, and Roche families, on the death of Cheryl Roche.

Joys: Jordan Acker Anderson & Josh Anderson, celebrating the birth of Isaac Beau Anderson. – proud grandparents are Janet & Andy Acker.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Bev Fleckten, Kate Patterson, Cordell Young, Nate Bock,* and *Katie Lewis.*

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to First Central with "pantry" in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom.

<u>Activities for the Coming Week, December 7 - December 12</u>

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Monday:

Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Wednesday:

Vespers, 6 p.m., FaceBook live.

Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom

Thursday:

Book Club, 7 p.m., Zoom

Sunday, December 13

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on YouTube.

First Forum: 5 p.m., Zoom. Director of Music, Stephen Bouma discussing Beethoven.

FirstYouth: 8 p.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

