

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! Call to Worship (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Savior,
and grant us your salvation.
Listen to what the Lord our God says:
**He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.**
The Lord will indeed give what is good.
**Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.**
May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us
in this time of Advent worship.
May we see God's face and so know peace. **Amen.**

! Invocation

Jim Fox

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe,
for you have kept us in life, sustained us,
and brought us to this holy season. **Amen.**

! Hymn 132

*Angels We Have Heard on High
Verses 1 & 3 with*

! Hymn 133

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
All Verses*

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Chuck & Brenda Stauffer

[*after lighting the second Advent candle*]
Prepare the way of the Lord.
We light this candle in peace,
the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.
Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Jim Fox

Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**O God, we live as if the light
had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**We confess that we ignore the Christ
you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;

but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

**We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time.

Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming.

It's time that we prepare for your coming.

Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.

Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love.

Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, was born to set us free.

He releases us from our fears and sins
and helps us find our rest in him.

Jesus delivers us from the way of sin and death.

Yet he remains the desire of people in every nation,
and he will direct us into the ways of his kingdom.

And so, with hopeful hearts, we call to him:

**Come now, long-expected Jesus,
come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.**

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel (V. 4)**

*O come, Desire of nations,
Bind All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the with heaven's peace.*

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Offering

Offertory *Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

! Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men*

! Prayer of Dedication

O Mighty One,
you have done and are doing great things for us,
and holy is your name.
Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—
that through us your grace and favor
may be made known to all the world,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

! Hymn 129

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Children's Sermon *Are You Ready for Christmas?* *Val Fieo*

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*

11 Then a shoot will grow from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a Spirit of counsel and strength,
a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.
3 His delight will be in the fear of the LORD.
He will not judge
by what he sees with his eyes,
he will not execute justice
by what he hears with his ears,
4 but he will judge the poor righteously
and execute justice for the oppressed of the land.

He will strike the land
with a scepter from his mouth,
and he will kill the wicked
with a command from his lips.
⁵ Righteousness will be a belt around his hips;
faithfulness will be a belt around his waist.
⁶ The wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf will be together,
and a child will lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear will graze,
their young ones will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like cattle.
⁸ An infant will play beside the cobra's pit,
and a toddler will put his hand into a snake's den.
⁹ They will not harm or destroy each other
on my entire holy mountain,
for the land will be as full
of the knowledge of the LORD
as the sea is filled with water.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse
will stand as a banner for the peoples.
The nations will look to him for guidance,
and his resting place will be glorious.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ So, then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called “the uncircumcised” by those called “the circumcised,” which is done in the flesh by human hands. ¹² At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus,

you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, ¹⁵ he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. ¹⁶ He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death. ¹⁷ He came and proclaimed the good news of peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

Sermon

*“God With Us: Peace”
Rev. Tim Latham*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Hymn 160**

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

 **Profession of Faith**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.
Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Hymn 128**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's Prayer Partners are
Bernie Hughes, Jim Fox*

 **Postlude**

***Note:** *As an added safety measure during worship, the downstairs entrance doors will be locked after the first hymn (approx. 10:40). Please plan your arrival time accordingly.*