

**† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 6, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

He Shall Feed His Flock

Handel/Broughton

**INVOCATION and CONFESSION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

**C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

**C** **Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**P** Give glory to the coming King.

**C** **O come, let us worship Him.**

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

**C** **We wait for You in hope and peace.**

*(The first and second candles are lit)*

**ADVENT CANTICLE**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

"Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace," thus says our God;

"Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;

tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over."

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad,

and all flesh shall see the token that His Word is never broken.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

**C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>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!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8-15

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for

these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORY**

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C Make straight His paths.**

P Our God shall come;

**C He does not keep silence.**

### **GOSPEL**

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word  
and at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's hope and friend.

As Your coming was in peace, quiet, full of gentleness,  
let the same mind dwell in me which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head that, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again as the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, freely ransomed by Your grace.

### **SERMON**

"Reflections on the Reading - 2 Peter 3:8-15" (Page 7)

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** God of power and might, come quickly to this weary world and hear our prayers for everyone in need.

**P** Faithful God, You teach us to wait for You with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we seek to understand and carry out Your mission. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Loving God, You set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of Your healing touch. We pray especially for communities impacted by flood or drought, and for those who manage our precious natural resources. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Steadfast God, where people suffer from discrimination, judgment or injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout under our feet and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** Mighty God, You call us to level the uneven ground. Give us strength and courage to persevere in the face of continuing difficulties during this pandemic, and help us to work together for the good of our neighbors and communities. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Tender God, we pray for those who cannot find joy in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in Your healing embrace. We pray especially for those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared Your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. We remember especially this day St. Nicholas, whose generosity and care for the needy became an example for all during the Christmas season. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**C 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

What hope! An Eden prophesied where tame live with the wild;  
the lamb and lion side by side, led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, a branch from David's line,  
a Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, lost Paradise restore;  
lead past the angel's flaming sword – Come, open heaven's door.

**BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Consolation

Ronald Nelson

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**Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:**

**Lector**                Rachel Eells



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## Reflections on the Reading by Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

December 6, 2020

### *Reflections on the Reading : 2 Peter 3:8-15*

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### Reflections:

1. All the readings are set within the context of the proclamation of God's coming judgement.
2. The letter of the Apostle Peter is a brief, happy middle section between Isaiah's and Mark's upbeat, pastoral readings.
3. The Apostle Peter tells us God is not slow, but patient.
4. The Apostle Peter tells us all will be destroyed, including sin, but the ultimate plan is a new heaven and a new earth. Creation 2.0.
5. Use the time that you have to receive and share God's love. Let the new kingdom break into your life now.

Reflections  
on  
the  
Reading

# Reflections Word Search Puzzle:

N  
 M  
 C  
 WXG  
 SEG  
 QMM  
 GUEAJ  
 CVRJU  
 UJTHJ  
 FCVALQS  
 BSZBHXK  
 TDQVAVX  
 HDNMUPOLA  
 HJVEPSCPD  
 RTJAVKQTB  
 JTNPMMCKJDYBLCZBJTDWDXTBXXOAXRAOVLXHLVLO  
 NLIRIEHMNPCFJJUIYTMXASXNEXVWWTCSMPDD  
 UPPCYNLQIANNEQMPBPSGSYXAPMGSYCLIP  
 GVWFAZVZQENQCYLPGYLOBRYHFRNITCF  
 OXEMHCBJTINJYOGAMOIMUWFGRRQIG  
 VNIFFAPSGFJWBVHBJRZBYCFMV  
 BOTDRPBCJP SHGYOGXONOWFS  
 IHIBZEFDQYGXOXRCTQEHO  
 WLDATLVJXKRQFHRDU  
 HKJCEHENJISKSKY  
 TZWPSRSSVWLBHIE  
 GMVYEFHBABSAIWR  
 ZBFAMZYYQFJMJGL  
 ZFMEPYDYITBDHVJFW  
 MJEAONIHPUNMNDBNF  
 PQZZWPSWJUREBAIGZ  
 GGDAUDGCS OIAMGHZKA  
 WIJABDN OHNEWWFO  
 RDTSHV RRGXUB  
 UELXLN EXDBHA  
 KPMUC FAUPJ  
 YJA UJT  
 ZYJ PSI  
 PL US  
 K V

## WORD LIST:

ADVENT  
HAPPY

JUDGEMENT  
NEW

NOW  
PATIENT

PETER