

Worship – November 29, 2020 (Advent 1)

Prelude – Comfort, Comfort Now My People (PsH #194, praise team)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1 Comfort, comfort now my people;
speak of peace: so says our God.

Comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning under sorrow's load.

Cry out to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover
and her warfare now is over.

2 For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling all to true repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Then make 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 on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5; *vers.* Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; *tr.* Catherine Winkworth, 1863, *alt.*

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, 1551; *harm.* Claude Goudimel, 1564

God Gathers His People

Welcome

*God Greets Us

*We Greet Each Other (waving)

*Call to Worship

*Opening Song – Come, Thou Almighty King (PsH #246 v. 1,3)

Come, Thou Almighty King

1 Come, thou almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise.

Father all-glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

3 Come, holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
rule now in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of power.

Text: anonymous, 1757, *alt.*

Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1769

Advent Candle – Dave P

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope. **[Light candle]** Isaiah gives us a vision of a kingdom yet to come where everything has been made new and where creation is at peace. “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:1–3). We light this candle of hope as a sign of our waiting and expectation for the coming Christ.

Song of Response – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (PsH #351 v. 1-2)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung;
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore to us a Savior
when half spent was the night.

Text: German, 17th cent.; st. 1-2 tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 tr. Garcia Grindal 1978

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Tune: *alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599; *harm.* Michael Praetorius, 1609

Prayer of Confession

We wait and we hope. For many of us, Christmas feels like a time in which we do neither. The season has become one of parties and extra activities, plans with family, year-end deadlines, and purchasing gifts. There is not much space for us to wait and feel hopeful. So this morning we begin our time of prayer by carving out some space for silence, for silent prayers to God or maybe just for silence before God.

Silence

Emmanuel, God with us, in this Advent season, we confess how difficult it is to slow down. We don't want to wait patiently for anything, and instead we buy into the busyness of the season, leading many of us to feel a lack of joy and a lack of hope. When we look at the world around us, it's hard to feel hopeful about the world, about our nation, about ourselves. We are surrounded by death, destruction, and pain, and we long for a day when your promised kingdom comes to make all things new. Give us hope that this day is indeed coming, and help us to rest in this because your promises are always true. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Our hope for a new creation is not tied to what humans can do, for we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule will be crushed. His kingdom will fully come, and the Lord will rule. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

—[Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony](#), 55

We Hear God's Word

Children's Message

Prayer of Illumination

Bible Reading – Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.

⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Message: ***The Hopes and Fears of All the Years***

Prayer

We Respond to God's Word

*Song of Response – O Little Town of Bethlehem (LUYH #88 v. 1, 3-4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

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.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Text: Phillips Brooks, P.D.

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, P.D.

Announcements

Prayer of the People

Offering – General Fund

Eternal Weight of Glory (solo, guitar) **Jennifer intro**

Eternal Weight of Glory

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suffering seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to Him our strength

Oh eternal weight of glory
Oh inheritance divine
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time
All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

For behold I tell a mystery
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of grace
Ev'ry year we thought was wasted

Every night we cried how long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's victory song

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold Him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

For behold I tell a mystery
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of grace
Ev'ry year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried how long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's victory song

Ev'ry year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried how long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's victory song

CCLI Song # 7064721

Wendell Kimbrough

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God Sends Us with His Blessing

*Blessing

*Sending Song – Go, My Children, with My Blessing (LUYH #946 v. 1-2)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
you are my own.

In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing;
you are my own.

at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son's story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1983 Concordia Publishing House Tune: Welsh melody (ca. 1794); desc. Hal Hopson © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

Accompanist – Carol

Singers – Dave P, Bethany

Sound – Jeff

Video – Shanna

PowerPoint – Jane