

The Second Week of Advent | How does a weary world rejoice? We find joy in connection

READ Isaiah 40:1-11
FROM THE ARTIST | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. "Comfort, O comfort my people" (Isaiah 40:1). When I've read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text's pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me—through translations, biblical art, movies, children's pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor. I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuschia flowers in the foreground are marjoram flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God's word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd's clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord.

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.

Hymns + Songs | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin

Numbers (#) are listed for music in the Lift Up Your Hearts (red) hymnal

Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison.

♣ Please rise in body or in spirit.



Second Sunday of Advent | Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. | December 10, 2023 St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

Thought for Reflection

"Where reason is indignant,
where our nature rebels,
where our piety anxiously keeps us away:
that is precisely where God loves to be."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prelude | Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659, by J. S. Bach

Call to Gather | adapted from a prayer by Thom Schuman

God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.

God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

We will sing a song of Advent to the One who hears our words and silence.

God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with peace and promise—that day and in the days to come!

Lighting Song | "Christ, Be Our Light," vs. 2, pg. 8 (hymnal, #908)

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your Word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Because of war.

because of violence in our communities,

because there is still so much unrest in our hearts.

we light a candle of peace.

Because hatred is still so strong,

because so many swords have not yet been remade into plowshares,

we light a candle of peace. (Light the second candle.)

May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming,

on earth as it already is in heaven.

Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

⊞ Gathering Hymn | "Savior of the Nations, Come" (verses 1, 2, 5 & 6), pg. 9

Celebration of Baptism | William Fjord Baumann Knox, son of Lauren Baumann and Jordan Knox

№ Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace

In a world of sorrows, we cry out to God.
In the heat of the sun, in the cool of the moon,
our screams search the heavens for our God.
When fear gathers round us like wolves in the dark,
we wonder whether God has forgotten us and left us alone.
So in our need, let us call out to God with one voice, saying:

Advent God, we cry out to you in our sorrow.

With deep rivers ahead and high mountains above, our souls want only your love.

You said to lean on your arm—so we lean now.

You said to trust in your love—so we trust now!

You said to call on your name—so we call now!

Forgive us, we pray.

Be our protection and our guide.

And like the Mighty One known by your faithful,
give us strength to step out on your mercy and grace.

A time for silent confession

God of Advent Light, may we watch and wait in eager expectation for the rising glow of your mercy and grace.

May we hope in the blessed dawn of Christ's love—
this day and all days! Amen.

■ Musical Response | "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful," pg. 10

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In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

And now, as a visible sign of what it means to live together in the care and context of Christ's community, let us extend Christ's peace and compassion to those around us!

The peace of Christ be with you all! And also with you!

Musical Reflection | *And Pierce the Clouds and Bring Us Light!*, by Austen Wilson

First Reading | Psalm 96:1-13 (Bible, pg. 479)

Hymn | "Creator of the Stars of Night," pg. 11 (hymnal, #71) verses 1, 4 & 5: all | 2: upper voices | 3: lower voices

[†] Following the Sharing of Christ's Peace & Compassion, Kindergartners and younger children are welcome to join activities in the Lower Level Children's Area.

Second Reading | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (*Bible*, pg. 473)

Musical Reflection | O Come, Emmanuel, by Elaine Hagenberg

Third Reading | 2 Peter 3:8-15a (Bible, pg. 988)

Hymn | "Love Has Come," pg. 12

Fourth Reading | Isaiah 9:2-7 (Bible, pg. 555)

Musical Reflection | "And the Glory of the Lord," from *Messiah*, by G.F. Handel

Fifth Reading | Isaiah 40:1-11 (Bible, pg. 581)

Hymn | "Comfort, Comfort Now My People," pg. 13 (hymnal, #59)

Sixth Reading | "Advent," by Walter Brueggemann

Worship in Tithes and Offerings

Offertory | *True Light*, by Keith Hampton

■ Response to Our Offerings | "Doxology for a Weary World" (sung to "In the Bleak Midwinter")

Praise the one Creator, praise the Living Christ Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night. Praise when you are weary, praise in times of joy.

Praise, my soul, with all your strength

and your heart and voice.

Prayers of the People & The 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;

Doxology for a Weary World

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Praise the one Cre - a - tor, praise the Liv-ing Christ

Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night

Praise when you are wea - ry, praise in times of joy

Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God.

And we offer You our love.

In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again Your purpose for the world, O Savior.

And we offer You our resources.

In this moment of giving we hear your call again, O God.

And we offer You ourselves.

Use us—all that we have and all that we are—to touch the world with the Advent message:

God is love. God is with us. God will never leave us alone.

So, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and forever. Amen.

Postlude | Variations on 'People, Look East,' by Michael Helman

Today's Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin III and Rev. Kyle Otterbein, pastors
Austen Wilson, director of music ministries
Logos Choir | Abby Chen, organist & accompanist
Resound! | Laura Kastens, director of handbell ministries
Agape Ringers | Austen Wilson, director of music ministries
Brass Ensemble | Lee Rabe, director of instrumental ministries
Soloists | Tessera Rippentrop, cello; Becky Benson, soprano; John Mendelin, tenor
Candle Lighters | Lauren Baumann & Jordan Knox

The Flowers on the Chancel are given by the congregation in celebration of Pastor Rob's birthday with thanksgiving to the Lord for his presence among us.

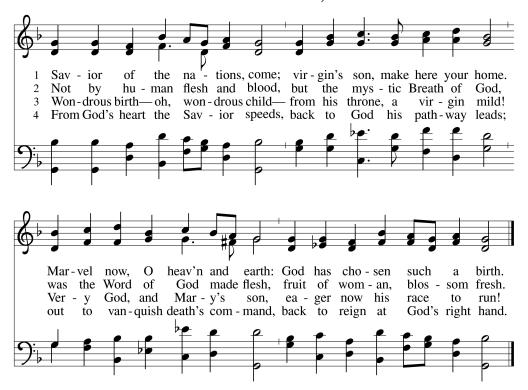


Christ, Be Our Light



Words and Music (CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 9.8.9.6 refrain 4.4.5.4.8): Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957) © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word! To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful 654



This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986

Text and Music © 1991 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

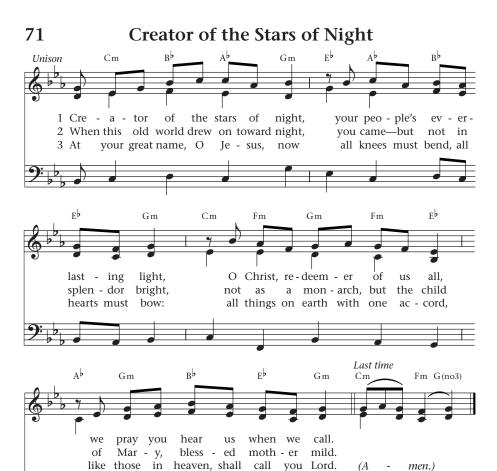
IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL Irregular





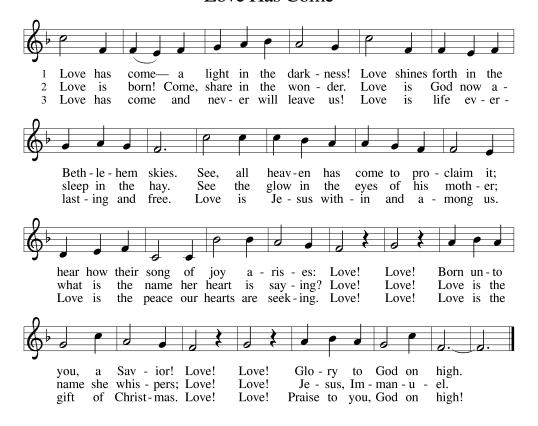






- 4 Come in your holy might, we pray; redeem us for eternal day; defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.
- 5 To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

Love Has Come



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

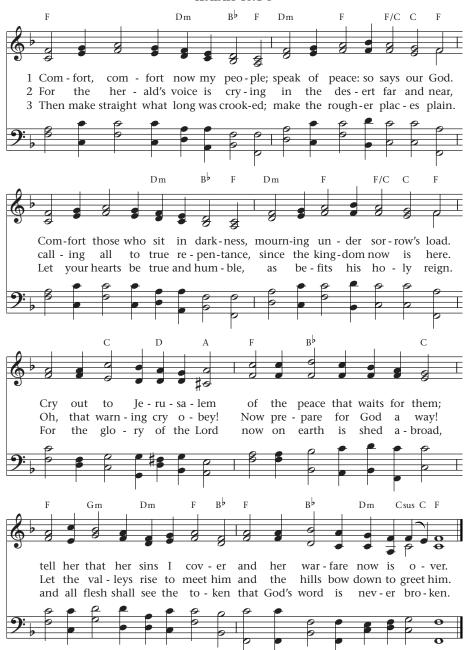
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Reminder of Upcoming Events

- Children's Christmas Pageant | Dec. 17
- "Cocoa & Carols" | After Worship | Dec. 17
- Services on Christmas Eve Day | Dec. 24
 - 9:30 a.m. | 4th Week of Advent, with sermon by the Pastor Kyle Otterbein
 - 5 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the Children's & Family Ministry Team
 - 7 p.m. | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Choir & Organ, with prompting by Pastor Rob Martin
 - 11 p.m | A Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, led by the ETC Band, with prompting by Matt Moore
- New Year's Eve Game Night | Dec. 31
- St. Andy's Talent Show | Jan. 27, 2024
- Women's Retreat | Feb. 2-3, 2024
- Luther College Nordic Choir | Melodious Harmony | Feb. 4
- Flipping Tables Retreat | Feb. 24, 2024

59 Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ISAIAH 40:1-5



Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

Words: Isaiah 40:1-5; vers. Johannes G. Olearius, 1671; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt., P.D. Music (FREU DICH SEHR/GENEVAN 42 | 8.7.8.7.7.7.8.8): Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), 1551; harm. Johann Crüger (1598-1662), 1658, P.D.

Lord of Light



Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- Welcome! We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email office@saintandrew-ic.org.
- Our worship services begin in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in The Maker's Toolbox outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- Nursery care (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the Time for Young Disciples on most Sundays and after the Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion on Communion Sundays.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- Prayer Requests may be written on a blue Prayer Request Card and placed in the offering plates as they are
 passed.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly offering—either in the offering plates or through our
 website—support the annual church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of
 ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the St. Andrew Connect system, either download the St. Andrew App through the App Store/Google Play or visit <u>saintandrew.ccbchurch.com</u>.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

Today's Adult Education Classes

- Pastor Rob Martin and Matt Moore continue team-teaching a weekly class on a range of topics from Spiritual Gifts to the theologians who have inspired them. | Lower Level Middle Classroom
- "Art in Worship, the Montreat Experience" | Dec. 3 & 10 | Inspired by this year's Worship Conference in Montreat, Paul Penn will facilitate a discussion on the role of visual arts in worship. The class will focus on the work of a key artist, Steve Prince. | The Hub
- "Surviving the Holidays" | Dec. 3 & 10 | Not everyone "celebrates" the holidays. For many people going through grief, the Thanksgiving and Christmas season can sometimes feel bleak. This two-week class led by St. Andrew's **Stephen Ministers** offers coping tools and support. Video and guides from the organization GriefShare will be used as the basis of brief small group discussions. | Conference Room (#128)

Pastoral, Ministry, and Administrative Staff & Church Elected Officers

Pastors

Rev. W. Robert Martin III, lead pastor & head of staff | rmartin@saintandrew-ic.org

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Rev. Mark Wilson Martin, pastor emeritus | pastormwm@gmail.com

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Elders

Class of 2024: Cade Benson, Jason Gehrs, Thomas Hartley, Sara Penn,

Karen Raynor, and Rebecca Schuchert

Class of 2025: Helen Bryce, Don Burch, Eric Goers, Jon Swearingen, and Bruce Walker

Class of 2026: Aaron Gibson, Mary Hausler, Virginia Ibrahim-Olin, Josh Schilling, and Gregs Thomopulos

Deacons

Class of 2024: Kathi Anderson, Katherine Habley, Cody Neddermeyer, Pam & Phil Karp,

Jenny Wilcox, and Elizabeth Young

Class of 2025: Erika Law Tuttle, Pat Penn, Amy & Jason Schmidt-Rundell, Kathy & Dave Duys,

and Dedi Walker

Class of 2026: Daniel Chappo, Jim Halverson, Scott Hoffman, Jamie Tanas & Mettie Thomopulos

Finance Team

Class of 2024: Jason Schuchert, treasurer | Michelle DeGroot, assistant treasurer

Personnel Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kent Short | Class of 2025: Lisa Shileny & Wes Habley | Class of 2026: Twila Finkelstein

Nominating Team (at large)

Class of 2024: Kyle Bernard, Nichole Hoffman, Lori Hudson & Emily Neddermeyer