

THOSE  
WHO *prepare  
the way*  
DREAM  
*2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday in Advent*

**Heritage Presbyterian Church**

**Dec. 6, 2020**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**10:00 a.m.**

*Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way (Peace)*

*Much of today's liturgy is written by or adapted from  
Rev. Sarah Are of A Sanctified Art.*

---

**We Gather in God's Name**

---

**As We Prepare for Worship**

John the Baptist calls the crowds into the journey of repentance and transformation. Similarly, we are called to prepare the way for God's message of love and liberation to be shouted, heard, and received. Those who dream make way for righteousness and peace to kiss, for faithfulness to spring up from the ground.

*(Ps. 85:10-1) ~ A Sanctified Art*

**A Visit from the Anticipation Angel**

Gathering Words

Rev. Sarah Are

John the Baptist said, “Prepare the way.” So family of faith,  
how do we prepare our *minds* for worship?

**We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts. We  
make space for God to speak.**

How do we prepare our *hearts* for worship?

**We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel. We open  
ourselves up to be moved.**

How do we prepare our *bodies* for worship?

**We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space. We  
breathe in God’s mercy. We exhale God’s love.**

How do we prepare our *souls* for worship?

**We bring our full selves into this space. We wear our  
hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is  
here.**

Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out  
in our daily lives.

**So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.**

Candle Lighting Liturgy | The Candle of Peace

Rev. Sarah Are

I dream of the first pitch of opening season.

I dream of a laundry day, where each sock finds its mate.

I dream of family home for the holidays.

I dream of good books and of homemade meals.

I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.

These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.

I dream of conversations across party lines and of more bridges  
and less walls.

I dream of more laughter and less fear and of more listening  
and less tears.

But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.

Today we light the candle of peace.

*Light candle.*

May it remind us that there is another way.

Amen.

**Gathering Song #87** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People”  
*(The music is printed on page 12 of the bulletin.)*

### **Call to Prayer**

Let us join our hearts and minds to the peace of Christ as we  
come together in prayer.

### **Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Sarah Are

Holy God, we wish that peace was something we could buy.  
We wish that peace could be ordered in a subscription service,  
found on a map, downloaded in an app, or voted for in a ballot.

**We wish that peace was as easy as a one-time choice when  
we are feeling our best.**

However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday  
decisions over and over, whether or not we are feeling our best.

**So today we confess, in this community of faith, that we  
need your help in this Advent season.**

*silent confession*

Prepare the way for greater peace and teach us how to be a part  
of it.

**Amen.**

**Words of Life** *Luke 1:78-79 (CEB)*

Because of our God’s deep compassion, the Dawn from heaven broke upon us, giving light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide us on the path of peace.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we have been restored to the peace of God’s salvation.**

**Our Response #134** “Joy to the World” (*verse 3*)

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

**The Peace**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

---

**God’s Word Comes Alive**

---

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Sarah Are

God of Peace, we must admit, there are a million things on our minds. We would like to be as focused as John the Baptist – preparing the way, gathering the crowd, spreading the word of your arrival.

**Maybe then we’d know peace.**

However, more often than not, we are a swirling compilation of grocery lists, text messages, e-mails, and over-referenced to-do lists. So today, we ask for your help in preparing the way. Could you start with our ears, and then maybe move to our hearts? We’d like to hear you more clearly.

## **Maybe then we'll know peace.**

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

### **A Reading from the Psalms** Psalm 85 (NRSV)

- 1 Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin. Selah
- 3 You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.
  
- 4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us.
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- 6 Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.
  
- 8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.
- 9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
  
- 10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- 12 The Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**A Reading from the Gospels** Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

**1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**2** As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

**3** the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,’”

**4** John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** 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. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** 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. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Message** “Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way (Peace)”

Rev. Michelle Henrichs

**Choral Anthem** “There Is Peace”

John Papoulis and the  
North Shore Country Dale School

**Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that a voice cried out in the wilderness,

Saying, “Prepare the way of the Lord.”

And so, we show up in worship, even from home.

We march toward justice.

We roll up our sleeves.

We plant trees for our children.

We make art.

We choose hope.

We gather at the Table.

We set an extra plate.

We sing loudly, with joy.

We share stories and wisdom.

We celebrate children.

We fall together.

We rise together.

We love together.

We do all these things because we believe that God loves us so much that God shows up here.

So we prepare and prepare for that next beautiful day.

May it be so. Amen.

---

---

**God's Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks**

---

---

**Call to Offering**

Christ comes whether we prepare the way or not; however, in our offering, let us give to the Lord in the name of the peace we receive.

**Doxology #113** “Angels We Have Heard on High” 113 (*refrain*)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!



## **A Visit with the Pastor**

If you would like a visit with Pastor Michelle, please contact her at 262-488-5100, or [mahenrichs@gmail.com](mailto:mahenrichs@gmail.com). You may also leave a message with the church office at 414-425-2050.

## **Prayer Concerns and Celebrations**

*Each week, we remember two families in prayer. We thank God for them, ask God's blessing upon them and God's presence with them. Please keep these highlighted families and the other listed people and places in your personal prayers throughout the week.*

Highlighted Families:                      Heidi and Fred Palmer  
Sue Fellows and Amy Lehmann

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:                  Presbytery of Southeaster Illinois  
The people of Myanmar

Praying for the Persecuted Church: Oman

<b>Birthdays</b>	Dec. 9	Dale Pforr
	Dec. 11	Karen Anderson
	Dec. 11	Tyler Symes

## **In Our Prayers**

If there are any prayer requests you would like to share, please send them to [roxannelawrence77@gmail.com](mailto:roxannelawrence77@gmail.com) or post them on Heritage's website and Roxanne will send them out.

### *Our Ongoing Prayer List*

Karen Anderson, Roxanne Lawrence, Jean Ripple, Pat Zebrick, and Jane Arloszynski's brother Earl Duckwall

---

## Announcements

---

### *Important News from Heritage*

While Tudor Oaks is closed to outside visitors, we will still be worshipping. Pastor Michelle will prepare a video worship service that will be available on our website:

(<https://www.heritagechurchmuskego.com>) by 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. Even if we can't be together in person, we can still be together in Spirit.

If you have any questions or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Michelle ([mahenrichs@gmail.com](mailto:mahenrichs@gmail.com)).

### *Congregational Meeting, Dec. 6*

Session has called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congregational Stated Meeting to be held via Zoom on Sunday 12/6 @ 11:00 a.m. Purpose of the meeting is to elect officers for 2021.

### *Prayer and Meditation via Zoom*

Please join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. for a Prayer and Meditation gathering via Zoom. Our next meeting date is December 9. The information is below (same link each week) and it is also set up as an event on our Facebook page.

<https://zoom.us/j/730001908?pwd=a2Y2K2thUUxzZnR1L01kL0pwdjQ2QT09>

Audio only using any phone (you will need to enter meeting ID and password): 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 730 001 908 | Password: 056113

*Copyright Notice*

The music in today's bulletin is printed under OneLicense #A-703550 and CCLI #11527801.

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Text: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans. Catherine Winksworth, 1863, alt.

Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

“Joy to the World”

Text: Isaac Watts, 1791, alt.

Music Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Text: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt.

Music: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Text: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.

Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

# Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87

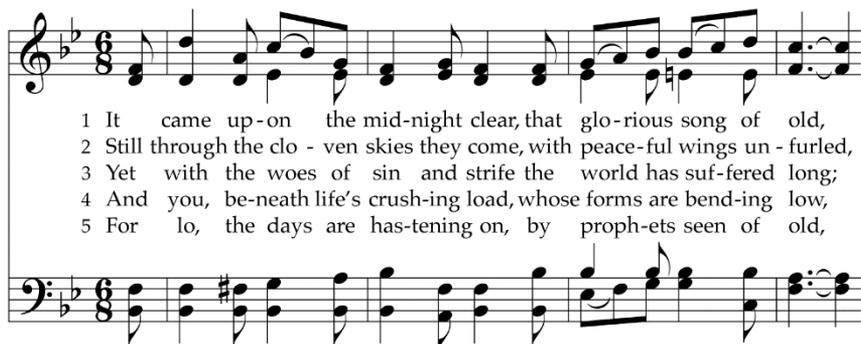
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

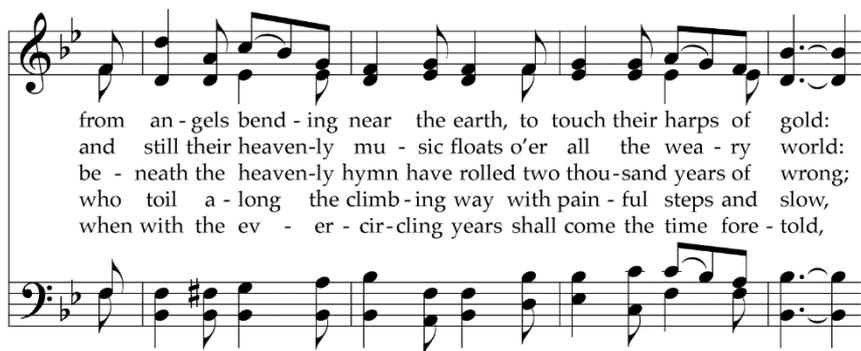
To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

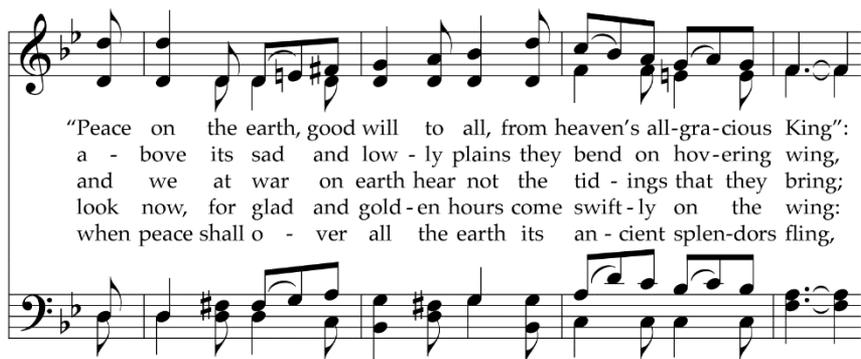
# 123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gra-cious King”:  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written between the two staves. The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with some accompaniment in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "the world in sol - emn still - ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing. and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing. O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing! O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing. and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing."