

Second Sunday of Advent

Ushers :: Nick Crump & Friend
Lectors :: Kim Gill & Jack Marietta
Acolytes :: Karen Fabiano | Jerry Jacobson

PRELUDE | **Macht Hoch die Tur** | *Diehl*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #65 v.1,3
Prepare the Way, O Zion | *Bereden Vag for Herran*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT | MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

THE RESPONSE | CANTICLE 16

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE | PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GRADUAL HYMN #75 v.1

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

| *Ascension*

THE GOSPEL | LUKE 3:1-6

*I*n the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon Dear People of God, Advent is a season of waiting and expectancy, of light, of promise, of love and hope. In our darkest time of the year, seasonally, and in the most painful part of the year for some of us, let us join our hearts and prayers together, holding tightly to each other, to our faith, and to our God as we pray.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the whole world, that your light might shine in the darkest of places, illuminating that which is good and revealing the places of evil. Spread your light, Lord,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the Church, that even the darkest corners might be revealed in the glory of your light. May those who serve within and outside of her walls bring your light to those who sit in darkness, for those who cannot see your all-encompassing love, for those who are lost. May those who minister in your name be beacons of your light. Enlighten our darkness,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who wield power in the world, may your light be the one they follow. May each one follow the light as the wise ones followed the Christmas star. May your light bring those who lead into right decisions and honest dealings. Lead them into light,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who sit on our street corners and in their homes, alone and lost and without your light. May the light of Christ invade their spirit and give them vision and a knowledge of your love. May we be your candle, providing light to those who know only darkness. Open our eyes so that we might see them,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who are ill in any form—physically, mentally, spiritually. May your light, your love, bring them healing. May they see a way forward and out of the darkness that surrounds them. Show them the path,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For whom shall we specifically pray today? I invite your prayers for others, either silently or aloud.

For those who have gone before us, following that light that leads to life eternal. We pray for their eternal joy in the presence of God. And we pray for ourselves as we recognize the darkness of their absence in our own lives. Fill our hearts with your light,

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN | WONDER, LOVE & PRAISE #889

Blessed be the God of Israel

| *Shepherd's Pipes*

RECESSIONAL HYMN | WONDER, LOVE & PRAISE #67 v.1,3

Comfort, Comfort, ye my People

| *Psalms 42*

POSTLUDE

| **People Look East**

| *Shepherd*

Parish Events | See our newsletter, Tune-Up, for details

Online				In Person			
Dec. 5	10:30	Sunday School	Zoom	Dec. 4	17:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	Sanctuary
	10:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	YouTube	Dec. 5	8:00	Eucharist, Rt. I	Sanctuary
Dec. 7	19:00	Bible Study	Zoom		9:15	Bible Study	Yellow Rm.
Dec. 10	8:30	Silent Prayer	Zoom		10:30	Eucharist, Rt. II	Sanctuary
					15:00	Ed. for Ministry	Yurt
				Dec. 8	13:00	HSK Packing	Yurt
				Dec. 10	9:30	Tai Chi	Parish Hall