



Second Sunday in Advent
Sunday, December 6th, 2020
Hoping for peace



On the second Sunday of Advent, we will be continuing the theme began last Sunday, looking for signs of hope; more specifically hoping for peace. Not only peace in our hearts, a personal peace; we look too for signs of Christ bringing about loving relationships, more justice and peace within and between different communities and nations.

GATHERING

Announcements

Call to worship

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Make a path for our God in the desert.

Each valley shall be lifted up.

Every mountain and hill be laid low.

The winding path shall become straight;

rough places shall become smooth.

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed;

all people shall see it together.

We gather to worship the Lord,

who offers the certain hope of justice and peace.

Invitation

In the name of God our Father and Mother;
in the name of the Son, Jesus, who prepares our way;
in the name of the Spirit, God within us,
among us and around us

The Lord be with you:

and also with you.

We are here in the name of Jesus Christ;

Come among us Jesus!

Come Jesus and meet us here!

Hymn 477 "Jesus calls us here to meet him"

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

[Two candles are lit: the candle of hope and the candle of peace]

We light the candle of peace
which shines even more brightly
in the darkness where hope might struggle.

What peace is this?

Let us hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

When steadfast love and faithfulness meet,
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Prayer of Reconciliation (based on Isaiah 40:1-11)

The promise of peace, when there is no peace;
when fear scrambles our minds;
when confusion knocks at the door;
when unemployment threatens our homes;
when old age stares back from the mirror;
***we listen for your voice, O God:
"Comfort, comfort, O my people".***

We are like the grass, our time is short.
Peace is fleeting,
empires come and empires go;
history moves on.

Our good intentions are like flowers,
beautiful to behold, then wither and fade.
Yet your Word, O God, will stand for ever.

The Word proclaims, "here is your God".
He will care for his people, with love he offers hope:
feeding our desire for right relationships, justice, and peace.

Amen.

Christmas Bowl

Video Clip for Advent 2 "Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh"

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you;
and also with you.

We are invited to share the peace with those sitting near us.

HEARING THE WORD

Mark 1:1-8

Marian Kingham

¹ The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

² As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.

³ A voice of one crying out in the desert:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.'"

⁴ John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. ⁶ John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you Lord Christ.

Song "Prepare the Way of the Lord" composed by Nathaniel Cabanero <https://youtu.be/qZqpwaiWWok>

Isaiah 40:1-11

Max Osborne

40 Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice of one calling:
"In the wilderness prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it together.
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out."
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever."

⁹ You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.

¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Kyungtae (Tay) Lee

Song: Comfort, Comfort Now My People (GENEVAN 47) by First
Plymouth Church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2wKFZBYUjg>

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Let's Give: Our Offerings

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below,
praise him, above ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.***

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the people

Robyn Egarr

*Each petition ends with the words, "Lord in your mercy"
and the people respond, "**bring peace to our world**".*

FEEDING ON THE WORD

Invitation

Come, follow the light that shines for you and leads you
to a stable with a manger and child.

Lord, we follow the light.

Come, listen for the voice that calls you to find
new life in the broken corners of the world.

Lord, we listen for the voice.

Come, rich and poor, neighbour or stranger,
share in this celebration with the Prince of Peace.

Lord, we come to meet with you.

Preparing the Table

God of all creation, you bring forth
bread from the earth
and fruit from the vine.

By your Holy Spirit, this bread and wine
will be for us the body and blood of Christ,
our source of hope, a promise of peace.

All you have made is good.

Your love endures forever.

Hymn: 538 "Feed us now, Bread of life"

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...

that we may know you through Jesus Christ,
and join with all the saints in glory in the ancient hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!***

***Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!***

...

we give ourselves to you, O God,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ was promised; Christ is born;
Christ dwells among us.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup,
and on us your children.

Form us into your body, the church,
that we may be your body in the world.

***Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory is yours, eternal God,
now and forever. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.***

***Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.***

***Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.***

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.***

Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of promise,
for whom the prophets hoped.

Christ is the cup of peace,
the justice of God.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

***May we who share these gifts
be found in Christ
and Christ in us.***

Lamb of God

Jesus, Wisdom of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Word made flesh,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Liberator of creation,
grant us peace.

The Communion

*For safety and health reasons, remain in our seats, where
we will be served wafers only.*

Prayer after Communion

...

May we now be filled with your living Word.

***Create a space in our hearts,
fill it with love,
as if it were a newborn child:
a promise of hope and peace for the world.
Amen.***

SENDING OUT

Blessing

...

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing Song: "My peace, I give you"

My Peace -- Taizé Song - YouTube <https://youtu.be/EPkN7by6XAk>

Musical Postlude

Pianist:

Travis Loughhead