



First Reformed Church, Schenectady
Those worshipping in person must wear masks, social distance, and not sing.

Second Sunday In Advent
December 6, 2020

Liturgist: Daniel Carlson

Preacher: Lynn Carman Bodden

Church Musician: Max Caplan

Special Music: Rachel Rose; Faith Potter; Andy Chestnut;
Dan Ipsen, Daniel Carlson, guitar; Dan Gleason, Percussion

Prelude: John Norton

Ushers: Sharron & Jim McCullough, Mike Horan.

PRELUDE

Fugue #19 in G#-Minor, WTC Bk 2

J.S. Bach

GREETING AND CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Adam, Becky, Molly, Laura,
Audrey, and Julia Mason

In our church and homes we gather around wreaths
to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys,
and love so hard to find and share in this season of coronavirus.
We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season
Advent when God's light comes into the world nothing can overcome it.

We light the candle of hope.

We now light the candle of peace in spite of gun violence, dangerous homes, depression and addiction, anger and fear.

God's peace illuminates the possibility of reconciliation and healing and brightens the path to joy.

**Emmanuel, God with us, God coming among us, in the week to come
kindle the wick of our lives with hope and peace
so that we may shine within your world. Amen**

*OPENING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort You My People

#3

Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness Bowed beneath oppression's load.

Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.

For the herald's voice is calling In the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance Since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting And the hills bow down to greeting.

Make you straight what long was crooked, Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

***OUR NEED FOR GOD** (*unison*)

God of darkening days and coming light, You call us to “advent” our lives: to be disturbed; to wait and wait and wait and wait; to keep awake, alert, uneasy, alive for what we cannot yet see.

It is so hard for us. When we grow impatient, when we fall asleep, when we are hopeless, restless, unloving, joyless, have mercy. Forgive us. Try us again. Amen.

***GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE**

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE** (*hummed to tune #1*)

By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*Our Song of Hope*)

**In each year and in every place
we expect the coming of Christ's Spirit.
As we listen to the world's concerns,
hear the cry of the oppressed,
and learn of new discoveries,
God will give us knowledge,
teach us to respond with maturity,
and give us courage to act with integrity.**

**Come, Lord Jesus:
We are open to your Spirit.
We await your full presence.
Our world finds rest in you alone.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (*spoken and signed*)

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths
of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong
to flight, for the world is about to turn.
Who is turning the world around

Refrain ...

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain...

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCRIPTURE

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

SECOND LESSON

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

"Peace Despite Troubling Times"

MUSICAL OFFERING

The Huron Carol

Jean de Brebeuf,
arr by Dan Forrest

Jesous Ahatonhia. Gloria.
'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Citchi Manitou (God the Creator)
sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin en-wrapp'd
His beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high,
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before Him knelt,
with gifts of fur and beaver pelt,
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth
and heav'n is born this day for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
"Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born in excelsis gloria"

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
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 God thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Words of Institution and Sharing of Elements

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

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

*CLOSING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #9 vs 1, 3

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Desire of nations, bind, All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's
peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+ + +

Prayers of the People

We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember our church members who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Katherine Rozendaal, Arthur E. Peterson,
Sally Hahn, Marguerite Carr, Ethel Avery

COVID Safety Protocols

As part of our COVID Safety protocols, our main entrance is open for worship at 9:30am, Jazz Vespers 4:45pm and Wednesday Lunch 12pm. They are only open for a short period after the events begin.

