

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

GATHERING BEFORE THE WORD

Prelude	<i>On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry</i>	Gilbert M. Martin (born 1941)
	<i>Watchman, Tell Us of the Night</i>	Gilbert M. Martin

Greeting and Announcements

Opening Sentences

***Doxology** - all to sing No. 592

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

*Prayer of Praise

***Advent Song of Praise** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 9

*O come, Thou Root of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Today is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace.

People: **Our peace is found in God and in his son, Jesus Christ. John the Baptist, and all the prophets remind us, that to receive peace we must be prepared for it.**

Leader: We light this candle today to remind us that Christ is the Prince of Peace, the one promised from the beginning of the world. We thank God for the hope he gives us and for the peace he bestows.

The Candles of Hope and Peace are lit.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **O God of Peace, Emmanuel, we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing. Work in our hearts at this time and help us prepare ourselves for the peace that he brings - the inner peace that tells us that we are united with you and the outer peace which will come when he returns to judge the world. Bless our worship that it may be pleasing**

unto you, and bless us that we may prove to be your faithful servants. Amen.

***Carol of Praise** "A Candle Is Burning"
(sing to tune of "Away in a Manger" No. 25)

*A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.*

***Opening Hymn** "[Come Down, O Love Divine](#)"

*Call to Confession

Leader: In Jesus Christ God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope let us make our confession.

*Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Cleansing God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond. A voice tells us to turn round, but we prefer our own ways. You seek to purify us in love, but we constantly elude your searching hand. Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life. Look with mercy upon us. Clear a place within us so that something new might be born, something that might return us to the way you have shown us in Jesus Christ.

A Time of Silent Prayer

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. This is good news!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

***Response of Praise**-all to sing "Angels We Have Heard On High" (refrain)
No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*We Share God's Peace

Leader: May the peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

(You are invited to share God's peace as you greet those around you.)

Anthem “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” arr. Alan Smith

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name is Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes, believer!
Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.*

*The angels sang when the child was born, the angels sang when the child was born,
the angels sang when the child was born, and they say that his name is Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes, believer!
Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.*

*The wise men came when the angels sang, the wise men came when the angels sang,
the wise men came when the angels sang, and they say that his name is Jesus.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

*He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom. Oh, yes, believer!
Oh, yes, believer! He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.*

Minute for Mission

LISTENING FOR THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading [Malachi 3:1-4](#) (NRSV)

Hymn (seated) “Jesus Loves Me” No. 304

*Jesus loves me! This I know. For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

Children’s Message

(Children grades K-8 may be dismissed to Sunday School)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading [Philippians 1:3-11](#) (NRSV)

Sermon **“Love May Overflow”**

prepare the way
The Rev. M. Rex Espiritu

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People...The Lord’s Prayer (‘debts’ and debtors’)

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

Sending Carols In Prayer and Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1 & 3) No. 23

What Child is This (verses 1 & 3) No. 53

The First Nowell (verses 1 & 2) No. 56

Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 3) No. 25

O Come, All Ye Faithful (all verses) No. 41

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Philip Kern

(We invite you to remain seated through the Postlude.)

***Indicates that those who are able may stand.**

Lectionary readings for December 15, 2024

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18