



Sunday, December 6, 2020 Service Online
Faith Presbyterian Church
Sierra Vista, Arizona
Second Sunday in Advent
Those Who Dream...Prepare the Way



PRELUDE *Medley of Five Carols: "Bohemian Carol / Shepherd's Pipe Carol / Bagpiper's Carol / Sussex Carol / Old French Noel Carol" – arr. Wheat*

INTROIT *"Emmanuel" - George & Ruth Van Otten and George Wheat*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

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

One: How do we prepare our *hearts* for worship?

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

One: How do we prepare our *bodies* for worship?

All: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of our spaces. We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.

One: How do we prepare our *souls* for worship?

All: We bring our full selves scattered as we are. We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.

One: 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.

OPENING HYMN *"Prepare the Way, O Zion" #106*

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace,

And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will ow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.

O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: 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 were feeling our best. However, what we have found is that peace involves everyday decisions over and over,

whether or not we are at our best.
So today we confess, in front of this community of faith,
That we need each other's help in this Advent season.
Prepare the way for greater peace, and teach us how to be a part of it.

(time for silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: May God forgive you. May God's guiding hand surround you.
May you know comfort. May you know peace.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE – Mike and Pam Winters

CHILDRENS TIME – Richard Carter

You can find the story referenced in the children's sermon read at <https://youtu.be/oepOjH0jWdM>

SPECIAL MUSIC - "*Fantini Fanfare*" arr. Hendricks performed by Tina Quinn Durham on soprano recorder, tenor recorder, flute, violin and xylophone

SCRIPTURE – THE PROPHETS

Isaiah 40:1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

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

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall 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 grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;⁹
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,⁹
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE - GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

¹ The beginning of the good news⁹ 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 appeared⁹ 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.”

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

SERMON **“Those Who Dream Prepare the Way”**

RESPONSE **APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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 “What Child is This” #145

*What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE “While We Are Waiting, Come” #92 (Verses 1 and 3)

*While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting come.*

*Come, Savior, quickly come;
come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.*

POSTLUDE “In Dulci Jubilo (14th Century German) - Traditional

Worship liturgy is adapted from prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Participants:

The Reverend Renée Rico – Preacher
Elder Jane Bourne – Worship Leader
Elders Ruth & George VanOtten, George Wheat – Introit
Elder Richard Carter – Children's Sermon
Elder Mike Winters & Deacon Pam Winters – Lighting Advent Candles
Tina Quinn Durham – Special Music
Janis Wheat – Piano and Organ
Elder Paul Hay – Video/Tech
Elder Judy Mayhew – Photo

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR *Happens at 11:15 a.m.*

Sign into ZOOM, and we'll place you in a small, Hosted group to have conversation with Faith folks to catch up and for conversation. Join Zoom Meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85471968282?pwd=WnNpVXM1QndXTWdNNXN1QzNtNXFTUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7196 8282 Passcode: 603532

Dial by your location (call any number)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (S