

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2019

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

We praise you, O Lord, that all things are in your hand and all is under your control. Lead us who are yours in Christ safely through all the hardship and enmity that await us according to your will. In the coming year lead your church and her people in the paths of righteousness, according to your will. Amen.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prelude

There is None Like You

Lenny Leblanc, arr. Carol Tornquist
Mr. Scott Engel

We praise our great God

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

We saw last week that the Scriptures record that even in the Garden of Eden, God had a plan to redeem his fallen people through the coming of Christ. Then came the voice from one in the desert, saying, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

As we come closer to Christmas, our days are filled with preparations. Let us also prepare our hearts to celebrate again the coming of the Savior.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has redeemed his people!

(ALL) We light this second Advent candle as we prepare to mark again the coming of the One who would save his people from their sin.

*Hymn No. 199

See, amid the Winter's Snow

Goss

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say—what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

"As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Savior's birth."

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Teach, O teach us, holy child, by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee, in thy sweet humility.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (responsive)

Psalms 107:1-22

(Hymnal pg. 824)

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say this—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle.

They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.

He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men,

for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains,

for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High.

So he subjected them to bitter labor;

they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

He brought them out of darkness and deepest gloom and broke away their chains.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men,

for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.

Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.

He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.

Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

Silent Confession of Sins

Assurance of Pardon

Isaiah 42:5-9 (ESV)

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it. Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people. A light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness, I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Confession Faith (unison)

Westminster Confession of Faith, VIII.6

Although the work of redemption was not actually wrought by Christ till after His incarnation, yet the virtue, efficacy, and benefits thereof were communicated unto the elect, in all ages successively from the beginning of the world, in and by those promises, types, and sacrifices, wherein He was revealed, and signified to be the seed of the woman which should bruise the serpent’s head, and the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world, being yesterday and today the same, and forever.¹

¹ Gal. 4:4, 5; Gen. 3:16; Rev. 13:8; Heb. 13:8

*Hymn No. 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai’s height,
 In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
 From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (in unison)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

**The Doxology* (*Hymnal*, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

Away in a Manger

James Murray, arr. Melody Bober

The children may dismiss for church-time programs.

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Exodus 1:8-14; 2:23-35

(Pew Bible, pg. 40)

Pharaoh Oppresses Israel

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.

God Hears Israel's Groaning

²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for *rescue from slavery* came up to God.

²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

Sermon

"Waiting for a Rescue from Slavery"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Thirsting

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,

