

ADVENT 2 SUNDAY

December 6, 2020

Organ Prelude: Fugue: "On Jordan's Bank"

Bruce Nasmith

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

"As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'" (Mark 1:2-3)

Christ is coming not only to be born anew, but to meet us where we are most vulnerable and unsettled.

Christ is coming to meet us at Christmas. How do we prepare the way of the Lord? How do we prepare for something that has already happened and is yet to come? How can we find Christ's peace in these times of upheaval and turmoil?

ALL: There is a cry in the desert, like thunder, and the rain that comes fills the thirsty cracks. Our worship prepares us to drink the cool water that is coming. New life, blooming! New life through a child and through the light and peace of your forgiveness, O God. Grant us readiness to clear the way.

Lighting of the second Advent Candle – the candle of peace

(Hymn 119, v.2)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

Hymn: "Comfort, comfort you my people"

No. 113

1. 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.

2. For the herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way;
let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

3. 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.

Prayer of Approach, Confession & Restoration

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: The peace of God

John Rutter

soloists Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Elias Theocharidis, Christopher Tanaka-Mann, with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 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. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion:

Thank you, O God. Bread and wine are food for our bodies as Christ is food for our souls. Feed us with fresh expectancy and hope as we prepare for Christmas. Give us courage to heed the call for repentance, trusting that dying to old ways can clear space for resurrection to new life in our commitments and relationships. Teach us to perceive in new and ever-changing ways. Give new inner birth to us as we prepare for Christmas during this season of Advent. In Christ's name we pray; Amen.

Hymn: "On Jordan's bank"

No. 126

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

without thy grace, we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

2. Then cleansed be every
breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.

4. To heal the sick,
stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward:

5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: O day of peace that dimly shines

Charles H. H. Parry

In Memoriam

The flowers gracing our sanctuary today are given by Joyce and Brian Westlake in loving memory of their dear sons, Andrew and Michael.