

# ADVENT 2 SUNDAY / HOLY COMMUNION

December 5, 2021

Organ Prelude: Schubler Chorale ("From heaven above come to us Lord Jesus")

J. S. Bach

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

Advent is here. It is a time of preparation, preparation for the coming of Christ.

### **But how do we prepare?**

John the Baptist tells us we prepare by purifying ourselves, becoming transparent before God, and 'repenting.'

**But John also says that God is love and God is forgiveness. As we open our hearts to come clean we create space in us for God's forgiveness to heal and make us whole.**

Do you need to repent? Do you need forgiveness? Do you need a spiritual community through which you learn and grow, share and experience the love of God in your brokenness and your journey toward greater wholeness?

**We are here, O God, to find you and to be found by you. We are here as individual persons, opening up our hearts, and we are here as part of a community, seeking to reflect your love.**

**Let us worship God together!**

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.**

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.

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.

3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward:  
without thy grace, we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

Prayer of Approach and Confession

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

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: People, look East

E. Farjeon

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-5; Luke 3: 1-9

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’ Amen.

Luke 3: 1-9

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’ Amen.

We are listening, O God;

**Speak to us!**

Sermon:

SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS

Dr. Harris

Special Music: Comfort, comfort ye my people

J. Olearius



## **Iona Creed**

(A Christian Creed based on the Apostles' creed from: Iona, Scotland)

**We Believe in God above us,  
Maker and sustainer of all life,  
Of sun and moon,  
Of water and earth,  
Of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor.  
He was tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,  
And his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us,  
The Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
Life-Giving breath of the church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
Source of resurrection and of life everlasting.  
Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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**Christ has died!**  
**Christ is risen!**  
**Christ will come again! Hallelujah!**  
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**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**  
**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing of Bread and Wine

Prayer after Communion:

**Thank you, O God. Bread and wine are food for our bodies as Christ is food for our souls. Transform us from the inside out, O God, so that we are ever more transparent before you, pure in our sincerity and genuine in our spirituality. May we give thanks for the seed you have planted within each of us to learn and grow and seek you. May we also give thanks for spiritual community and this community as it is instrumental for our spiritual journey through brokenness toward ever greater wholeness; In Jesus' name; Amen.**

Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus

No. 110

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever;  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: O day of peace that dimly shines

C. H. H. Parry